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THE
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT
OF
SCOTLAND.



THE
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT
OF
SCOTLAND.

DRAWN UP FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS
OF THE
MINISTERS
OF THE
DIFFERENT PARISHES.

BY SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, BART.

VOLUME TENTH.

“ Ad consilium de republica dandum, caput est nosse rempublicam.”
CICERO, de Orat. lib. ii.

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Carried over,		41,489	50,519	20,331	1301	

No.	Name.	Population in 1755. in 1792-3.		Increase.	Dec.	Page.
	Brought forward	41,489	50,519	20,331	1301	
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40	New Spynie - -	865	602	—	263	623
	Total,	55,929	70,868	16,720	1781	
	Population in 1755,	- - -	55,929	1,781		
		- - -				
	Increase in 1793	- - -	14,939	14,939		

STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF

S C O T L A N D.

P A R T X.

N U M B E R I.

P A R I S H O F W I C K.

(County and Presbytery of Caithness.—Synod of Caithness and Sutherland.)

By the Reverend Mr WILLIAM SUTHERLAND.

Origin of the Name.

THE ancient and modern name of this parish, as far as can now be ascertained, is that of *Wick*, an appellation common all over the northern continent of Europe, supposed to signify the same with the Latin word *vicus*, a village or small town, particularly when lying adjacent to a bay, or arm of the sea, resembling a wicket. When any other word is placed before or after it, that word denotes

VOL. X.

A

some

some peculiar property, for which the town or village is remarkable.

The parish is 13 computed miles in length, and 7 in breadth. Its figure is almost circular, though, in some places, indented. The extent of the sea coast is more than double the number of miles, that the public road passing in a direct line can measure. The shortest road to the ferries to the Orkney islands, being evidently by Wick, and not by Thurso, a regulation took place, in 1791, by which the course of the Orkney post was altered, so that it now goes by the former, instead of the latter, town.

Sea coast, Rocks, Caves, &c.—The coast of this parish consists principally of high rocks, particularly along the line extending from Clyth in Latheron parish, towards Ulbster, the property from which Sir John Sinclair derives his family title. These rocks are prettily diversified by various creeks, where fishing boats can harbour *. The fishermen, on this
part

* The names of the different creeks, (in the provincial dialect, *goes*,) are numberless. They seem to be partly of Danish, and partly of English derivation; as *Whalegoe*, from whales having been cast ashore there, a circumstance that has happened on different parts of this coast—*Reagoe*, from a slimy mineral water dyeing the face of the rock—*Ravenogoe*, or the creek of ravens—*Heathegoe* abounding with heath—*Toufgoe*, or the shelter of foxes, &c. There is also a rock near Ulbster called *Lechan ore*, a name which, according to tradition, it obtained from the following circumstance: Gun of Clyth, a gentleman of Caithness, going over to Denmark, prevailed upon a Danish Princess to marry him. In returning home, to make preparations for the reception of the lady and her attendants, the vessel, with the expected guests, was wrecked upon this rock, and every soul perished. A pot full of gold, the remains of the wreck, having been found upon the rock, it hence obtained the name of *Lechan ore*, or golden flags. The body of the Princess
was

part of the coast, to get to their boats descend a huge precipice by winding steps in the face of the rock, by which some lives have been lost; and yet, from frequent practice, it is often done without assistance, by a blind fisherman in Ulbster. To secure their boats from being dashed against the rocks, particularly in storms and stream tides, the fishermen hang up their yauls by ropes, on hooks fixed in the face of the rock, above the level of the water, where they are safely suspended, till the weather is fit for going to sea. Mr Brodie, tacksman of Ulbster, has paid some attention to the cleaning of these havens, and rendering the passage easier down the declivity. At one of these creeks (called Faligoe from the fall of water) is a fine cascade, rushing down a very high precipice, which, with the reflection of the sun, makes a very conspicuous appearance, from a considerable distance at sea. Underneath these rocks are many coves, extending up a considerable way, and accessible only by water in boats. In those hideous caverns, as visitors advance, the light of the sun is gradually excluded, till at last, they are involved in utter darkness, and recourse must be had to torches, before they reach the strand. Along the shelving sides of the coves, many cormorants nestle and rest; and the report of a gun fired in them resounds with a most tremendous noise. In the season for seal catching, the fishermen, as silently as possible, land in boats at the head of the coves, on the beach, where they find numbers of seals, which they kill with bludgeons for their oil. In the egress from these coves, the gradual light of the sun is enjoyed with double satisfaction. The
magnificence

was thrown ashore, and interred in the neighbouring burying-ground at Ulbster, where Sir John Sinclair's family tomb is situated. The stone, which is said to cover her grave, is still extant; and has some Hieroglyphick characters inscribed, though now much obliterated by time.

magnificence of the scene is heightened by many rocky pyramids of immense height, rising, at some distance, out of the sea. Curious petrefactions, some of them measuring from 2 to 3 feet in length, are found in some of these coves. On the estate of Hempriggs in the mouth of a creek, one very remarkable rock forms a small island, about a gun shot in length and 24 feet in width, covered with green, and open at the top, where sea fowls nestle; it is supported by two oblong pillars, completely intersected, so widely, that a boat can easily pass through, and so regularly, that it appears more like the work of art than of nature*.

Old Wick.—Near this island is the castle of Old Wick, built upon a narrow promontory: It is now a ruin, but forms a good beacon at sea, and is called by sailors the Old Man of Wick. It seems to have been constructed for a place of refuge, having the ruins of a ditch and draw-bridge, a number of port holes for defence, and a conveyance for retreating, by a stair descending through the rock, to the sea. It was once the residence of the Lords Oliphant (a dormant title,) one of whom is said, in ancient times, to have been murdered, at a place not far distant from his castle.

Salmon Fishing.—On the estate of Hempriggs, is a loch called the Salmon Craig, where the proprietor has a salmon fishing, which might be carried on more extensively in the bay and river of Wick. The general opinion is, that this fishery would be more productive were the course of the river altered, and carried in a straight line to the sea, which will be the case if the projected new harbour takes place.

New

* The rocks along the coast of this parish abound with great variety of sea-fowl, especially marrots, scarts, gulls, wild pigeons, &c. affording a great deal of rock-shooting, the produce of which the fishermen take up in their boats, salt and eat in winter.

New Harbour.—The new harbour is not only an object of the highest importance to the town itself and its immediate neighbourhood, but to the kingdom at large. It would be the means of saving many vessels, which, when overtaken by storms or contrary winds, have no place of shelter, between Cromarty and Stromness; whence on this dangerous coast, from the want of a harbour, many vessels have been driven ashore, and many lives lost. A harbour commodious for a number of vessels, and safe in all weather, might be made at Wick. This would be particularly beneficial during the herring fishery, which has been much retarded from the want of such a shelter. In 1791, no less than 34 vessels lay there on the bounry, pent up in very narrow bounds, and in constant danger of running foul of one another. The proposed plan for this harbour however could not be executed without considerable expence. It was laid before the British Fishery Society, who sent persons of skill to take an exact survey of the grounds, and to report their opinions, which was in favour of the measure. A correspondence has in consequence been entered into, with Benjamin Dunbar of Hempriggs, the proprietor, for feuing out, on the south side of the water, opposite to the town of Wick, several hundred acres of land, for building a fishing village. The harbour at present, is very apt to be choaked up by banks of sand, thrown up at the mouth of the river, and which are only cleared away by strong floods. There is another inconvenience often felt at this place, that vessels must frequently wait both for a fair wind and a stream tide, as they do not always answer at the same time. Along the coast near Wick, are a number of creeks, or *goes*, into which, during the herring fishing season, small boats resort, which, at other times, are laid up in a fine basin, at a little distance to the north, called the Broad-Haven of Wick.

Staxigoe.—Near Wick is the creek of Staxigoe, deriving its name from a pyramidical rock, commonly called here a stack,
formed

formed in the mouth of the creek. Many vessels resort there in summer, but cannot ride there with safety in winter. It is a kind of port, where considerable quantities of grain and meal, the produce of the neighbouring country, are shipped off. Several persons have commodious store houses, and some kilns for smoaking herring have also been built there. Ground is leued out by Mr Dunbar, the proprietor, for dwelling houses, at the rate of 10 s. *per acre per annum* for 99 years.

Nofs-Head.—Near Castle Sinclair, is a high rocky promontory called Nofs-Head, conspicuous some miles off even in the middle of the country, and visible at a vast distance at sea. If a beacon were erected here, and a light house at Duncansby-head, seamen would have a good direction for regulating their course through the dangerous navigation of the Pentland Frith. Many accidents have happened by vessels steering too near the land, in the dark, and proceeding right forward, so as, instead of entering the Firth, to involve themselves among the breakers on the Sands of Keils, where they are inevitably wrecked.

Castles.—Close to each other are Castles Sinclair and Gironigoe, formerly the residence of the Earls of Caithness. They are accessible to the sea, and seem to have been built with the same view as the castle of old Wick, though on a more extensive plan. Not far from these venerable ruins is Ackergill Tower, once the residence of the Earls Marischall, now the seat of Benjamin Dunbar of Hempriggs, the proprietor of a very considerable estate in the neighbourhood. In the Tower there is a large high vaulted hall, and another just above it, now in disuse; the walls are of such breadth, that 12 or 14 could conveniently sit at table in one of the windows. It is built close by the sea, and near it is an extensive tract of green,
called

called the links of Reifs and Wester, with a good rabbit warren, affording a pleasant ride, and an excellent road in all seasons; though at ebb tide, a more expeditious course is taken by the sands, which extend about three miles.

Keifs.—At Keifs in this parish, one of the estates of Sir John Sinclair, is an excellent mansion house, with an elegant stair and cupola, built by Sir William Sinclair the former proprietor, but not completely finished. Below is a castle where anciently the Earls of Caithness occasionally resided. This estate as well as the neighbouring of Nybster, belonging to Mr Sinclair of Freswick, abound with peat moss. At Nybster and Sarclett are small salt-pans, where is made a weak kind of salt, that sells from 8 d. to 10 d. *per* peck.

Sea-ware.—Along that part of the coast of this parish where the beach is flat and level, the sea, particularly in winter and spring after a storm, throws in great quantities of sea-ware, which afford abundance of manure for the land. The ware is sometimes put into large heaps, and allowed to rot; and then becomes a very strong manure, dissolving into a fat saponaceous substance, producing myriads of animalcula, and sometimes it is mixed up in dunghills, with cods-heads, herring garbage, and brine. It is cut at ebb tide with corn hooks from the stones, and burnt into kelp.—As about half the coast of this parish is steep and rocky, the quantity of kelp made in it is not considerable, not exceeding, at an average, from 40 to 50 tons.

Fisheries.—The fisheries along the shore of this parish, form an object of considerable importance. The coast is of great extent, and abounds with a vast variety of fish, which, besides what is annually exported, furnishes the inhabitants
with

with a liberal supply during every season of the year. Salmon, trout, herring, cod, ling, haddock, whiting, mackerel, halibut, which the fishers here call turbot, skate, flounder, dog-fish, (from whose livers a great quantity of oil is extracted) a red speckled prickly fish called cumars, cuddies, that grow up to the size of a cod, and are then called seaths, fillocks, a small fish caught with the rod from the rocks in such quantities, as to be sold for a penny an hundred, are all met with in plenty; sand eels, crabs, partans, and lobsters are also caught here, though the latter not to such extent as might be for the London market, to which it is now in agitation to send them.—Many years ago, the cod fishing was carried on to a considerable extent on this coast; but, from the inattention or unskillfulness of the fishermen, had for some time been given up, except merely for the supply of the inhabitants; till of late it was resumed by the Messrs Falls of Dunbar, who entered into contracts with the fishermen, not only of this place, but all along the coast of Caithness, for what fish they could take.—These contracts have been assigned to Messrs Selby, Cresswell, and Co. London, who now carry on the fishery to a considerable extent.—The fishermen receive quarterly the price of the fish they deliver, at the rate of 2d. for every cod, not below 12 inches in length. Small as the price is, yet, as it ensures a market, it enables the fishermen, who are mostly farmers, to pay their rents much better than before.

A boil-house is erected at Wick for pickling the salmon caught in the river Thurso, from which they are carried by land (about 20 miles distance) to save the trouble and risk of crossing the Pentland Frith. Several hundred of kits, containing each about 40 lb. of salmon, are annually sent to London.

don. They fetch in general about a guinea *per* kit, but sometimes more, and are reckoned among the very best that come to the London market.

An ice house has also been built here, to supply ice for carrying fish to London, but the two last winters being mild, little or no ice could be got; the plan, however, is by no means given up.

Herring Fishery.—From time immemorial great shoals of herrings have visited this coast; till of late years, however, they were much neglected, the people contenting themselves, year after year, with catching a few on hooks; and proceeding with that excellent bait to the cod-fishing. But in 1767 and 1768, a more enterprising spirit arose. John Sutherland of Wester, Messrs John Anderson of Wick, and Alexander Miller of Staxigoe, fitted out two sloops on the bounty. They proceeded to Shetland, then the nearest place of rendezvous, where they were entered on the Custom-house books; returning to the coast of Caithness, they fished successfully, but, owing to some informality, were deprived of the bounty, then amounting to 50 s. *per* ton. This disappointment, however, did not deter them from making another trial next year, though on a lesser scale. They fitted out only one sloop, and had the same success; but it was with some difficulty that the bounty was recovered. The adventure, on the whole, not being very encouraging, their ardour was abated for some years, but the place of rendezvous being at last altered, the herring fishery yearly increased; a spirit of emulation arose between the natives of the town and several adventurers, who, on account of the fishery, resorted to Wick from other places. Curing of red, as well as white, herrings became an object of attention;

and both the red and white herrings of Wick have met with the highest approbation in the London and other markets.

The success of the herring fishing has been various, but, on the whole, increasing in proportion to the number of adventurers, and the skill they acquire*. In 1790, 32 vessels on the bounty, measuring 1610 tons, lay at Wick, but were greatly hampered for want of a good harbour. In 1791, the number amounted to 44, crammed close to one another, in a worse condition than ever. They were much damaged by a storm in the height of the fishing season, notwithstanding which, the quantity caught was reckoned not inferior to that of 1790; and was sufficient to load all the bounty vessels. Many more might have been caught, had there been a good harbour for the vessels: At present boats only can be made use of; and it is an agreeable sight, in a fine evening, to see upwards of 200 of them at once under sail, the crews in high spirits, setting out for the fishing; it would, however, be still more pleasing to see as many large vessels busied in the same occupation, which might be the case were the harbour made more commodious. Notwithstanding the success of late years, the fisheries of Wick are as yet in their infancy. Before they can flourish, so as to become a national object, different encouragements would be necessary. A good harbour is much wanted, as nothing of the kind can be found on all the east coast of Caithness; a circumstance that has occasioned much damage, as well as loss
of

* It appears from the Customhouse books, that, in the year 1782, 363 barrels of white herrings were exported; in the year 1783, 700 barrels; in 1784, 1800; in 1785, 1850; in 1786, 2338; in 1787, 5000; in 1788, 8800; in 1789, 9613, of red and white herrings; and in 1790, no less than 10514 barrels of white, and above 2000 barrels of red herrings, besides about 700 barrels estimated to be consumed in the county.

of lives, even during the herring fishing season, which at this place is in summer and the beginning of autumn. The coast being very open and dangerous, fishermen will not venture out in small boats but in very promising weather. The abolition of the duty on coals would be of great use by encouraging the resort of settlers to carry on both fisheries and manufactures; and lastly, it would be of importance to have a large supply of salt and casks laid up in storehouses*.

It would also contribute to the success of the herring fishery were proper regulations laid down for carrying it on. Real fishermen, whose sole business and interest should be to carry on all sorts of fishing, ought to be procured. Although this parish affords as good a fishing coast and as good stations as could be wished, yet it is to be regretted that there are hardly any real fishermen belonging to it, those alone excepted who resort to Wick, from different parts of the kingdom, during the season of herring fishing only. Such, however, is the desire of gain that pervades all sorts of tradesmen here, that they betake themselves to the herring fishing when they think it likely to turn to better account than their own particular business. Weavers, tailors, shoemakers, house and boat carpenters, blacksmiths, masons, &c. in this and the neighbouring parishes, having made a little
previous

* This last is an object worthy the attention of the British Fishing Society, as many thousand barrels might often be caught in one night here; but, from its uncertainty, private adventurers cannot afford to have by them so great a stock of salt and casks, as would be necessary on such occasions; the consequence is, that when the herrings run beyond expectation, the private stocks are exhausted, the industry of the poor fisherman cramped, and the fish allowed to lie on their hands, though perhaps the merchants were bound by passion to receive them. The best remedy would be to take off entirely the duty upon salt, an impost in many respects impolitic and injudicious.

previous preparation, repair to the fishing boats, go to sea in the night, the only time for catching herrings, and spend all the day in sleep, by which their customers are sure to be ill served. Husbandmen, and even small farmers, hire themselves out, during the fishing season, for 8 d. 10 d. or 1 s. *per* night; and, during the course of about three months, masters are at a considerable loss for servants to carry on the business of their farms. These people seldom return till the harvest begins, thereby earning double wages for the summer season.

It is an unfortunate circumstance for the fisheries that the method of growing and manufacturing hemp is not known in this neighbourhood, where there is so much need of cordage and netting. At present, the fishermen must buy foreign hemp, from the merchants of Wick, when they might raise it at home as good and much cheaper. To encourage this, the trustees ought to allow higher premiums for raising hemp than flax; at present they are on the same footing. There is not a doubt that hemp would thrive here, there being plenty of excellent manure, and abundance of fine rich black loamy soil.

Appearance of the Country.—The appearance of the country, in general, is flat, open, and champaign. Very considerable improvements might be introduced into Caithness, which, it is to be hoped, will in time take place. Through all that county immense tracts of uncultivated green ground, with a good depth of soil, and ready for the plough, lie in a state of nature, and are made use of only as common pasture, but might easily be converted into good arable land. There are also still larger tracts of heath, all of which might be brought in, and, if cultivated, would soon render the county capable of yielding double the present rent, and more than double
the

the present productions. In most farms, likewise, there is a great deal of outfield ground, which, after being kept for 4 or 5 years in oats, is only suffered to lie by for 2 or 3 years, and never receives any manure, nor is properly laid down with grafs feeds. Such, however, on the whole, is the natural fertility of this county, that with a very indifferent system of husbandry, it is able to export, in tolerable years, no less than from 18000 to 24000 bolls of bear and meal, besides supplying the consumption of its own inhabitants. Wheat, rye, pease, and green crops are very little in use. Rye is almost never sown *.

Climate.—The climate is healthy, unless in very rainy seasons, when the air is impregnated with damps, perhaps greater than in the more southern counties of Scotland; and when the moist weather is of long continuance whole families are infected with nervous fevers, diarrhoea, and dysentery. It is a general remark that Caithness suffers much less from dry than from rainy seasons, for most of the lands in that county lying on rock, the rain is prevented from penetrating very deep; and the rock being covered by a stratum of clay, the soil retains a sufficient degree of moisture for vegetation. But, when the season happens to be excessively wet, the effect must be the reverse; the soil is chilled, and a late crop is generally the consequence. Snow does not remain here so long as in the south, from the country being exposed to the influence of the German Ocean. On the coast, the weather is sometimes mild and soft when there is frost in the interior parts, so that

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* As a proof of the richness of the soil here, it may be observed, that there are many fields, which, in the memory of man, have never been sown with any thing but bear; with only a sprinkling of manure each year, sometimes but once in two years, yet have always yielded as abundant a crop as the ground could carry.

a traveller feels a material difference of climate in the same county.

Lakes.—In this parish are some fresh water lakes or lochs. One at Hempriggs furnishing a sufficiency of water for a waulk-mill a distillery a snuff mill, a lint-mill, and three corn-mills. There is another loch, curiously situated on the top of a hill, which notwithstanding, never overflows its banks. The loch of Wesfer, communicating with the sea, produces plenty of excellent salmon-trout, some of them two feet in length, remarkable for flavour, delicacy, and richness. Hitherto they have been caught only for the use of the neighbourhood; but might become a valuable article of commerce, if their excellence was known to the luxurious citizens of London. In March and April, all these lakes are periodically visited by swans, that resort to them for a temporary resting place: In their passage to the north, they wait here till all their companions are assembled, when, on the approach of good weather, they pair and fly off in troops to the Orkney islands and other places, in which they breed; they return again with their young to the Caithness lakes, about the month of October. Their music, at a distance, in a calm night, when sitting together as it were in close council, on the surface of the water, has no unpleasant effect *. It is said, that, when young, they are delicious eating; but they are not meddled with in this county. It is certain however, that, in the time of Edward IV. they were held in such esteem in England, that, by act of Parliament, none were allowed to keep swans, ‘Other than the son of our sovereign lord the king.’ They are remarkable prognosticators

* One of those swans, when its mate had been shot, has been known to remain a whole summer season on the loch, lamenting its deserted state in doleful notes.

noticators of the weather; and much relied on as such by the farmer.

Minerals.—Near the castle of Old Wick, in the face of a rock, a copper mine was discovered; and from the appearance of the ore, some miners entered into a contract with the proprietor, and had begun to work it, but the scheme was dropped, for reasons which are not at present known. Here, as in some other parts of the parish, there are inexhaustible stores of limestone. At Old Wick, the lime has been burnt by Mr Dunbar of Hempriggs and his predecessors, at from 9 d. to 10 d. *per* boll. The quarry there is interlarded with flags useful for paving *. The county abounds with stones, very fit for building, which might be much more employed than they are at present for drains and inclosures, the want of which greatly retards the progress of improvement. Some small stones have been found, which seem to be a species of flint, about an inch long and half an inch broad, of a triangular shape, and barbed on each side. The common people confidently assert, that they are fairies arrows, which they shoot at cattle, when they instantly fall down dead, though the hide of the animal remains quite entire. Some of those arrows have been found buried a foot under ground, and are supposed to have been in antient times fixed in shafts, and shot from bows. Some stones also of a flinty nature have been found, which when broken contained the shape of serpents coiled round in the heart of the stone.

Population.—The state of this parish, in regard to population,

* In an angular cavity in the face of a flat rock near Old Wick, covered by the sea at high water, there is a small mineral well which fills and empties with the tide twice every 24 hours.

tion, appears to be increasing. On the most considerable estate in it, that of Hempriggs, as well as on several others, there are many well cultivated fields let to tenants, which about a century ago were no better than common pasture. The inhabitants, particularly on the coast and in the burgh of Wick, have multiplied as the fisheries have become more extended and successful. In February 1719, when Mr James Oliphant obtained a decret for stipend, the inhabitants of the parish were reckoned to amount to about 4000 souls. The return to Dr Webster in 1755 was 3938, and the number has since increased to at least 5000 young and old. It is also reasonable to imagine that the population will be considerably augmented in consequence of villages projected on the south and north of the town; the one by the British Fishing Society already alluded to; and the other now building by tenants of Mr Dunbar of Hempriggs, who, in terms of the act for encouraging agriculture on entailed lands, have taken 99 years leases of 33 acres of excellent land, fit for garden ground, at the rate of 22 s. *per* acre. These tenants are bound, on each half acre, to build a house worth at least 10 pounds. This village is called Louisburgh, in compliment to Mrs Dunbar, whose christian name is Louisa, and it can scarcely fail to prosper from the many advantages which it possesses.

The number of families in the burgh of Wick is about 200, and the number of inhabitants about 1000. The number of Births in the parish, at an average of 3 years, may amount to about 120 *per annum*. Marriages, *communibus annis*, run from 27 to 30, but some omit to record either births or marriages.—The deaths are not recorded, because, in this populous and very extensive parish, there are no less than seven different burial places, besides the principal one within the church yard of Wick.—Instances of very great longevity are

are rare, but many exceed 80, and a few arrive at 90 years of age.

Occupations.—There are few handicraftsmen in the country part of the parish, which is principally inhabited by farmers. The leases of these farmers are commonly of short duration, and they are bound to perform heavy and almost unlimited services to the landlord. These services are, in general, as follows; viz. in spring, ploughing, harrowing, and manuring; in summer, weeding corns, cutting, winnowing, leading, and stacking hay; thatching office-houses with the tenants own turf, straw, and simmons; cutting and leading middling seals, &c.; in harvest the farmer must, if a fair day offer, assist when called out in cutting down his landlord's (or as here termed his *master's*) crop, though he leave his own entirely neglected, and exposed to bad weather; he must afterwards lead and stack it in the corn yard, and, at some interval, must rebuild the stacks, furnishing them with straw and simmons of his own; in winter, some tenants thresh part of the master's crop, giving him what is called custom straw, besides wintering his cattle, and furnishing ropes for the ploughs and for binding the cattle. Tenants have, moreover, to take their master's victual, kiln-dry, mill, and sift it, and deliver in meal at a proof; and when it is sold to a merchant, they are obliged to carry it, as well as their own victual rent, to the neighbouring port and put it on ship board, their horses often standing all the time, for many hours, starving with cold and hunger. The tenants must also in rotation be obedient at a call to carry letters from their master to any part of the county. These oppressive and impolitic services are here very properly called *master-work*, but they are rapidly wearing out; and it is to be hoped will soon be entirely abolished: Already, indeed, some gentlemen have converted the services of their tenants, and given them leases

for nineteen years. That abject servitude, formerly so prevalent, was evidently contrary to honest industry and real improvement. While such a system prevailed, it was much against the interest of a good husbandman to improve his farm, as if he did another offered a higher rent or grassum for it, and reaped the fruit of his labours and exertion.

Rents.—The tenants pay their rents partly in money and partly in kind, as in grain, lambs, cocks, hens, chickens, eggs, &c. Proprietors, whose tenants go to the fishing, generally get a small present of fish on their coming from sea, since what was called katerfish has been abolished. The old iniquitous feudal practice, by which the landlord thought himself entitled to take the heriel horse from a poor widow, on the death of her husband, is now unknown. The rent of the best arable land here is from 10s. 6d. to 15s. *per* acre. In addition to the usual rent, fines, or what is here called boads, grassums, or entry money, are sometimes exacted.—There are only 9 heritors in the parish, the greater proportion of whom are non-resident.

Tacksmen.—There are about seven principal tacksmen, or great farmers, in the parish, who hold leases of the proprietors at stipulated rents, and who exact from the subtenants and cotters the rents and services that would otherwise be payable to the proprietors. But sometimes the landlord, instead of letting his estate to a tacksman, keeps it in his own hands, and manages a part of it, called *the Mains*, by an overseer and servants, with the assistance of the tenants and cotters*.

Tradesmen in the Burgh.—In the town of Wick, there are about

* Cotters are an inferior kind of farmers, who possess small cottages with a little land, for which they pay a trifling rent in money or

about 12 shopkeepers, 9 or 10 shipmasters, 50 coopers, including apprentices, a few house, ship, and boat carpenters, together with masons, smiths, weavers, shoemakers, taylor, &c. sufficient for the size of the place. The greater part of these tradesmen are occasionally employed as fishermen.

Religious persuasions.—Of late, some seceders (antiburghers) have made their appearance, but they are much on the decline, and have at present no settled minister. There is but one stated preacher of that persuasion at present in the county, who is settled at Thurso. The parishioners, in general, are of the established church of Scotland, of good, moderate, and peaceable dispositions, not ignorant of the principles, nor inattentive to the practice, of religion.—There are still about half a dozen Anabaptists on the estate of Keiss, the remains of the disciples of the late Sir William Sinclair, who was himself a zealous Anabaptist, and made some proselytes amongst his tenants. But this small exception to the general persuasion of the people is scarcely worth notice.

Stipend.—The present living of the minister of Wick is 97l. 13s. 4d. Sterling, the vicarage tiend being converted at 200l. Scotch, and the victual at 8l. Scotch *per* boll, for which the Lords of Session pronounced decret in 1775. There is a good manse and offices built in 1786, a garden with a glebe and some inclosures and improvements. The glebe was exchanged for a sufficient equivalent on Mr Dunbar's estate, and an adequate consideration was given for the garden ground, corn yard, and stance or site of the old manse and offices. The present church is very old, a long, dark, and ill constructed building, perhaps the worst in Caithness; a new fabric will soon be necessary. The patronage of this parish

or in kind, but they are likewise bound to pay personal services for a certain number of days in the week.

parish was acquired from the late General Scott by Sir William Dunbar of Hempriggs.

Poor.—The funds appropriated for the support of the poor in the parish arise principally from the public collections in the church, which, deducting bad copper, do not exceed from 10*l.* to 12*l.* *per annum*, consequently, at an average, it is scarcely two shillings to each pensioner, there being no less than 150 on the parish roll. The smallness of those funds is owing to the absence of the gentry, who spend their rents elsewhere, and leave the poor on their several estates to be chiefly supplied by the inhabitants of the burgh. In such cases it were much to be wished, that either the heritors by themselves or agents would assess themselves, as is done in other parishes in Scotland, or that a law were obtained obliging them annually to pay a certain sum for the relief of the poor. The mulcts are applied towards payment of the fees of the session clerk or parochial officers, &c. If a balance remains, it is distributed among the poor.

Schools.—Besides the parochial school, there are no less than five charity schools with established salaries in the parish, and also several private teachers. Mr William Hallowall, who, about forty years ago, was an itinerant minister in this parish, and afterwards chaplain to the Charity Workhouse at Edinburgh where he died, bequeathed 21*l.* for ever to the parish of Wick, for endowing three charity schools, to be built and upheld by the heritors on whose ground they were erected. Their salaries, on the application of the minister to the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, were somewhat augmented. There are, besides, two other schools which the Society were pleased to settle; one of them is established in the town of Wick, for teaching through the week; and a catechetical exercise on Sunday. It is supported

ed partly by the before mentioned Society, partly by the Society for Promoting Religious Knowledge, among the poor, and partly by the contributions of the town and parish. The teacher is accommodated with a school and dwelling house in the town by Sir John Sinclair, the heritable Provost. This establishment was greatly owing to the worthy Secretary to the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, (the Reverend Mr Kemp of Edinburgh,) who, in the course of his survey of the schools in the northern parts of Scotland, saw the great utility that might be derived from such an institution *.

Productions.—Neither in this parish, nor in any part of the country, are trees abundant, nor do they seem in general to thrive in it. On the coast, where they are exposed to the sea blast, every attempt to raise wood has proved abortive. But in the more interior parts, and remote from the sea, trees answer better. It is, however, remarkable, that, in ancient times, wood appears to have grown well; for in many moss grounds, large logs have been, and are to this day, dug up. In regard to gardens, Caithness is no fruit country, at least for apricots, peaches, or the finer sorts of fruit. Common apples and pears, however, together with cherries, strawberries, and currants, answer well when properly attended to; cucumbers are raised in hot beds; artichokes are found here in the greatest perfection; collyflowers, cabbages, colewort, favoys,

* The following is a state of the Charity Schools, presently established in this parish.

<i>Station.</i>	<i>Teachers Name.</i>	<i>Salary.</i>
Barroch,	Donald Craig,	L. 10 0 0
Kiefs,	Andrew Smith,	10 0 0
Riefs,	Robert Harold,	9 0 0
Thrumster,	John Tulloch,	10 0 0
Wick,	Hector M'Lean,	10 0 0
Ulbster,	Mrs Tulloch,	4 0 0
Kiefs,	Mrs Smith,	4 0 0

favoy, spinage, beets, turnips, carrots, parsnips, onions, and all sorts of kitchen stuff, may be reared in abundance, as also pot, aromatic, and medicinal herbs, by due attention.

Cattle.—The county at large, as well as this parish in particular, abounds with black cattle; considerable numbers of which young and old are purchased by drovers at from 40 s. to 50 s. *per* head, and are driven to Falkirk, Edinburgh, and England. It is here asserted, that the shire or lowland, drive fully as well as the highland, cattle. *Horse coupers* or dealers buy up in summer all the year-old garron stags or colts they can find, which they send over to Orkney; and sell with profit. These the Orkney men, after keeping and working for 3 or 4 years, resell when full grown, perhaps at double the price, according to their age and appearance; so that when they are brought back to Caithness, the farmer must give such a price for them that he pays for their keeping in Orkney, more than they would have cost had they remained in Caithness. These horses, called here *garrons*, are a small breed, between 4 and $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, very hardy, requiring little care, and living in winter on fodder with little or no corn.

Ploughs.—Four of those garrons, * or sometimes four oxen, are yoked in a plough a-breast, and not two and two in the long draught as in other places. So much attached are farmers here, and even the farm servants of gentlemen, to this custom, that they will by no means alter their method; alleging, that, in a short yoke, they can easier raise the plough over rocky land, do more work, and draw with more advantage, particularly when the ridges are crooked, than in the long way. This awkward method cannot be approved of by good judges. The short draught or four a-breast is never equal,

* Horses of a larger size than the garron, if fit for the carriage or the saddle, are called here *court horses*.

equal, but the one end of the long beam or first bar always goes before the other, just as the driver whips up the cattle on his right or on his left hand. The driver is in the middle, and walks backwards all the way, keeping his face towards the ploughman; whereby, indeed, he has it in his power to give more or less earth to the plough, by pushing off the two horses, on which he leans his hands, to either side. This absurd method is still practised by all, except such gentlemen as have got south country servants, who are beginning to use two horses in a plough without a driver.

In this county some years ago, and still it is said in Orkney, a sort of plough yet more singular was used. It had but one stilt, called the steering tree; this the ploughman held close to his right thigh, which was covered with a sheep's skin to save his clothes; the coulter was not, as now, through the beam, but through the key, which was made very strong. This plough is said to have pulverised the soil much, and to have produced good crops, but was weighty in the draught. The number of ploughs in this parish cannot be less than 580, a sufficient proof of the great value and extent of the arable part of the parish.

Carts.—The use of carts has been only of late years introduced into this country; and they are as yet far from being so generally used, as every good farmer would wish. The tenants carry home their peats, and some lead their corn, in what they call *crubans*. They carry their victual in straw creels called *cassies*, made very compactly of long oat straw woven with small twisted ropes of rushes, and fixed over straw sleds on the horses backs with a clubber and straw ropes.—When a call comes to ship the master's victual, some scores of the garrons or small horses above described are sent out by the tenants, tied to one another by the tail, with a *cassie* of meal or bear on either side of every horse. A
boll

boll of meal or half a boll of bear is all the load each can carry in this miserable mode of conveyance.

Sheep.—Different attempts have been made to rear sheep in this parish, but not with success. They are liable to so many diseases, with the cure of which the farmers here are totally unacquainted, that they are generally swept off once every five or seven years; and, in rainy seasons, whole sheep cotts have been quite extirpated. This discourages farmers from rearing so many as otherwise they might do, in such extensive commons as are to be met with every where in this county. As a sheep walk, the best place in this parish, is no doubt the hills of Yarrow, a part of Sir John Sinclair's estate, where they might have a range of dry hills, plenty of heath with a mixture of grafs, &c. But at present, a very preposterous method is practised by the tenants in that neighbourhood, as well as all over Caithness, of penning up their sheep in houses in summer, (to keep them from their corn,) whilst in the winter season, they are allowed to stray at large to the shore, where they live partly on sea ware. Many of these neglected but valuable animals are killed by foxes, and many are found lying dead on the shore drowned by the sea. The breed of sheep here are small bodied, with tolerable wool, and make excellent mutton when fattened at a proper age.

Flax.—Flax thrives well here, and most of the farmers sow as much as is necessary for the use of their families. It has not, however, as yet been carried on to such an extent as to procure any premiums from the trustees. Watering it, is found to be a very precarious and troublesome process, requiring a constant regular attention; and taking up much of a farmer's time from other work. The seed is seldom or
never

never preserved here.—The experiment of boiling the flax, instead of watering it, seemed to answer in this parish.

Fuel.—As to fuel, some parts of the parish abound with moss grounds, which furnish the contiguous farmers with plenty of peats. Other places, particularly the town of Wick, lie two or three miles distant from moss. Providing this article of peats takes up the farmer during the greater part of the summer season, and, in bad years, a part of the harvest also; and yet in a wet season, many are very ill supplied. This mode of getting fuel proves very hurtful to husbandry, as a farmer could much more profitably employ his carts in making dunghills for his lands; a garron load of peats on crubans is sold in Wick, at a penny. Each horse carries only about ten or twelve peats. Ten or twelve of these loads will scarcely fill an ordinary cart. To the poor tenant making peats is an unprofitable occupation, and to the buyer they are undoubtedly dear. The burgh is so sensible of this inconvenience, that they and the neighbourhood are coming more and more into the practice of burning coals. But Caithness and the other northern counties labour under a grievous burden, that most unreasonable duty on coals water-born, which, however, there is now a prospect of soon being freed from.

Crops.—Very little land is here employed in raising artificial or sown grasses, but there is a good deal of common meadow grass. Mr Dunbar of Hempriggs has from 12 to 14 acres under clover and rye-grass, though winter herding has not yet been fully established. There are a few acres of sown grass in the open fields between Wick and Staxigoe, and about eight acres more in the possession of the minister. Few deal in green crops. A small quantity of turnips may

be sown in some places, but potatoes are cultivated by all. Probably if the practice of green crops became general, it would be more beneficial than the ordinary rotation of bear and oats alternately, which is the practice of Caithness. Two thirds of the arable land is generally sown with a mixture of black and grey oats, which is found to answer better, and to yield more plentiful returns, than white oats. March and April is the usual seed time for oats, but sometimes they are sown so late as the beginning of May. The other part of the land is laid down in bear, the earliest about the beginning of May, and continuing till the middle of June. In some places, this article has been sown as late as the 18th or 20th of June, and yet has produced a plentiful crop, though of inferior quality. In warm lying places, bear has been known to be in the ground only about ten weeks from the sowing to the reaping time; a proof of very quick vegetation.

Run-rig — A pernicious custom still too much prevails in this and other places, of possessing land in what is called *rig and rennal*, or run-rig, that is to say, each tenant, in a particular farm or district, has a ridge alternately with his neighbours. This is necessarily attended with confusion and disputes, and is a practice requiring to be abolished. It is thought to have taken place in times of barbarity, as a preservative against one neighbour setting fire to the field of another, if inimically disposed, and to make them all equally anxious to resist the enemy, in case of invasion *.

Popish Chapels, &c. — The remains of some popish chapels are still extant. At Thrumster there is a ruin of one, surrounded

* This parish is abundantly able to supply itself with provisions of all kinds. There is a weekly market every Friday in the town

rounded by a burial place, still in use. There was another at Saint Ereskirk, a little below Ackergill Tower, respecting which, it is handed down by tradition, that some centuries ago, the Clan-Gun surrounded the chapel, when the people in the neighbourhood were met for worship, and slaughtered many of them in cold blood. Between the Guns, who, in those

town of Wick, kept under good regulations by the Magistrates. In cheap years, beef has been sold at 1 d. or $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. *per* lib.; but when cattle is dear, and the demand high, it has got up to 2 d. and $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. and in spring, when scarcest, to 3 d. Pork and mutton fetch much the same price. The meat here is supposed to be more tender and delicious, than the rougher grained animal food of England, or that of the southern parts of Scotland. Caithness is noted for rearing geese, which furnish a luxurious repast, when fattened on the stubbles after harvest. Sometimes they are hung up and smoked. Some turkeys and ducks are raised. Hens fetch from 3 d. to 4 d. cocks $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. chickens 1 d. and $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. each, and eggs sell at 1 d. *per* dozen. Of meal and bear, there is in general not only a superabundance, but a considerable export. There is enough of malt, and too much whiskey, which is prejudicial to the morals and constitutions of many. Butter and cheese are sold at from 10 s. to 12 s. *per* double stone of 24 lib. weight. Tallow at much the same rate. The difference in the prices of provisions of all kinds, is very considerable in the course of the last 20, 30, or 40 years; a leg of beef, weighing between 50 or 60 lib. could have been bought for 2 s. 6 d. 3 s. or 4 s. which now will fetch from 10 s. to 18 s. according to the weight and quality; and pork, mutton, and veal, have risen in the same proportion. Geese that of old sold at 4 d. 6 d. and 8 d. now draw 1 s. in summer, 1 s. 3 d. after harvest, and 1 s. 6 d. at Martinmas. Tallow, butter, and cheese that formerly sold at 4 l. or 5 l. Scotch, the double stone, now fetch from 14 l. to 15 l. and 16 l. Scotch. In like manner, victual, that 30 years ago sold at 5 s. 6 s. 7 s. or 8 s. now fetches from 10 s. (the usual converted price of the boll in Caithness,) to 12 s. 14 s. 15 s. 16 s. 18 s. and for crop 1782, which had in general failed, no less than 20 s. *per* boll.

Wages and Rates of Labour.—Husbandry is not carried on here by day labourers, but by constant hired servants, both men and women, and sometimes boys, for plough drivers and herds. A ploughman,

those days, were like the Swifs, hired out to fight, and the Keiths the vassals of Earl Marifhall, there was, it is faid, a battle in the neighbourhood. It was agreed by the parties, that the Guns fhould mufter out man for man, and three for *Keachmore* or meikle Keith, (a proverb ufed to this day, fignifying, that in fairnefs a very ftrong man ought to have more than one to match him,) all were to appear to a certain number on horfe back. The Keiths, however, had recourfe to the ftratagem of mounting two men on each horfe; by which means the Guns were overpowered by fuperior numbers, and were obliged to fly for fanctuary to Saint Ere's chapel, where many of them were put to death. The moft remarkable battle or skirmifh, that is known to have been fought in this parifh, was at a place called Auldnamarlich near Wick, on the north fide of the river. This engagement happened in July 1680, between George Sinclair, fon of the Honourable Francis Sinclair, of Northfield and Kiefs, claiming the title of Earl of Caithnefs, on the one part, and on the other the Earl of Breadalbane, who, affifted by a military force, obtained the victory.

Character

ploughman, who, fome years ago, had no more than from 13 s. 4 d. to 18 s. now earns for half a year, from 20 s. to 28 s. including fhoes, and three bolls meal for coft or maintenance. Women fervants, that fome years ago had only from 6 s. to 8 s. muft now have from 20 s. to 24 s. half yearly; and boys, that before had only from 2 s. 6 d. to 4 s. now demand from 10 s. to 12 s. for 4 months, from the term day, (which here is the 20th June,) till the corn is put into the yard. A grieve or overfeer has at prefent from 3 l. to even 10 l. Sterling *per annum*, who of old would have only got about two guineas. Day labourers earn 6 d. to 10 d. *per day*, according to their work. In cutting peats they have 6 d. and their victuals. Women hired for harveft get 6 d. *per day*, and a bannock. Domestic fervants have alfo raifed their wages from 6 s. 8 d. to 12 s. or 14 s. half yearly. A common labourer, it is computed, is enabled to fupport his family, by his wages, and his wife's and children's induftry in fpinning, working nets, affifting at the fifhery, &c.

Character of the People.—This parish, and the county in general, is justly characterized for its martial spirit. It has proved an excellent nursery for soldiers and sailors. No where have recruiting officers been more successful. Want of manufactures and other means of employment, make young men, who are averse to labour in husbandry, and have no good way of livelihood, readily betake themselves to the army and navy, more especially when a Highland corps is to be raised. On the late alarm of a Spanish war, the town of Wick cheerfully furnished its quota of seamen, and of course procured protections for those employed in the fisheries *.

Borough of Wick.—The town and lands of Wick, were anciently a part of the Earldom of Caithness. On the application

* The young men and women are fond of dress. Some, who before put up with a *kelt* coat, (a kind of coarse flannel dyed black) the housewives own manufacture, common stuff gowns for the women, are not now satisfied without good English cloth, muslin gowns, white stockings, silk ribbands, &c particularly at fairs, weddings, and other public appearances. Bonnets have very much given way to hats; and shoemakers get from 4s. to 6s. for shoes, from servants, who, not 20 years ago, had an allowance of only 1s. for shoes, whilst women employed in husbandry were allowed but 8d. This turn for dress, and the many fairs or markets held in the county, (which being called after some saint, as the Marymas, Fergusmas, Magnusmas, Petermas, &c, seem to be the remains of holy days observed in Roman Catholic times), * draw servants away from a proper attention to their own business, and make them very unprofitable assistants to the farmer. In regard to amusements, they are extravagantly fond of dancing in Caithness, especially about the time of Christmas and the new year, when almost every town, or village, keeps a day in honour of the tutelar saint of the place, and devotes it to mirth and jollity.

* Some old people, even within these few years, were so superstitious, that they thought it their duty to retire for their devotions, to the ruins of St Eres chapel, and there leave small gifts of bread and cheese, &c.

tion of George Earl of Caithness, a charter was granted by King James VI. of Scotland, of date the 24th September 1589, erecting the town of Wick into a royal borough. On the 8th October 1672, his great grandson, another George Earl of Caithness, disposed the whole Earldom of Caithness, including the lands and tenements of the town of Wick, to John Campbell of Glenorchy, afterwards created Earl of Breadalbane; by whose successor in title it was sold in 1718, to the family of Sinclair of Ulbster. On a general order from the convention of Royal Burghs, the set or government of the borough of Wick, was ultimately fixed in 1716, by which, in all time coming, the consent of the original founders of the borough, and their successors, was declared to be necessary to the election of magistrates. By this set, the old magistrates make out a leet, consisting of two out of which a Provost, four out of which two bailies are to be chosen, by the burghesses on the roll, and the leet must be presented 30 days before Michaelmas, to be approved of by the superior. The Provost and the two bailies thus elected, have the right of choosing seven councillors, a treasurer, and dean of guild. In consequence of these regulations, Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster, and his predecessors, have annually been in the practice, of approving a leet, presented to them, of the magistrates to be chosen. Wick is one of five burghs each of whom chooses a delegate for returning a member to Parliament for the northern district. The income or common good of the town is very trifling, but it is on the increase, and arises from the Customs payable on different articles sold at market, shore dues on ships, &c. The borough pays no stipend, nor school master's salary, nor has it any real property in the church. Its tolbooth is seldom occupied by prisoners, except for petty riots; and a very few for civil debts.

Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous Observations.—The most remarkable phenomenon that has been observed here was about eight years ago, when what is called a corona or halo, superbly bright and luminous, consisting of two bows, concentric, with an apparent interval of from three to four feet between them, and extending over a great part of the hemisphere, was distinctly seen.—There are several flag stones, from 8 to 9 feet high above the ground, which tradition says, were erected to commemorate battles fought between the natives and the Danes. Wherever a Danish General or renowned warrior fell, this rough monument was erected to his memory—Hard by is a cairn of stones, called Earl Alexander's Hillock, where, it is said, he was slain; a man, who lived at Thrumster to an hundred years of age, found, about the end of last century, a golden chain, which, in a year of famine, he sold to a bailie in Wick, for a boll of oat meal.—The crop, in 1782, afforded a most melancholy spectacle, being, while quite green, covered with frost and snow, in the beginning of October. Some families, in this and the neighbouring parishes, who were most reduced, went to Lanark for employment at the cotton manufactures there, but, not meeting with the success they expected, were obliged to return or starve. A few emigrated to America, in consequence of the encouragement they expected to meet with there, in which, however, they were miserably disappointed. So wretched a crop was unavoidably succeeded by a dearth in 1783, when one family could scarcely furnish another, though in a plentiful country for victual, with any quantity however small. The effects of that failure would have been very serious indeed, had it not been for a most seasonable and providential aid from government; in consequence of which none died of want.—In a road lately made to the Broadhaven by the face of a bank, a species of bluish brittle stone has been found, resembling
allum

allum stone.—Not far distant from Staxigoe there is a good slate quarry, though not so light for roofs as the Easdale slate.—Near Castle Sinclair, and not far from the surface of the ground, considerable pits of emery have been discovered, which, when properly pulverised, promises to resemble in quality that article commonly brought from other countries. On the surface of the emery pits, a very fine smooth clay, or ochre of a bright yellow colour, is found, which, mixed with a little glue, answers well for painting the walls of rooms, &c.—The language generally spoken in Wick parish is the common provincial dialect of the north, which they pronounce with more propriety, and less of a peculiar tone, than in many other parts of Scotland, and which, making some allowance for a few words and phrases peculiar to the native inhabitants, is almost entirely pure English. Little or no Gaelic is spoken in this district, unless by some persons from other parishes, where the Erse is made use of in divine worship, of which there are but four, (Latheron, Halkirk, Reay, and Thurso,) among the ten parishes of which the presbytery of Caithness consists.—The names of places here seem to be either Danish, Icelandic, or Norwegian. Many of them end in *ster*, a contraction of *stader*, (that is to say, a stead of houses, a station or habitation.) Thus Ulbster, properly Wolfster, either from its being of old a place infested with wolves; or from a person called Wolf (no uncommon name in the northern parts of Europe,) having possessed it. Thrumster, Stemster, Thurster, Bilbster, Sibster, Nybster, Wester, &c. sufficiently prove how general that termination is.—In this parish, and throughout the county in general, a number of Pictish houses are interspersed; in some of which are found wells or good springs of water, pieces of iron, deer's horns, and, in some hillocks, a number of small pieces of silver, and sometimes copper coins of James I. &c. of no
great

great value, except to a virtuoso, have been discovered.—During the winter season, amazing flocks of small birds, called *snow fowls*, with short yellow bills, and white wings, appear all over the county, numbers of which are shot. In spring, they are exceedingly fat, and make an excellent dish. In summer, they migrate and disappear.—A stone image, extended at full length on its back, representing St Fergus the tutelar saint of the parish, is laid within a notch in the north wall of the church; after whom also an excellent spring in the neighbourhood, much used by many of the people of the burgh, is named.—Some years ago, several of the inhabitants formed themselves into an incorporated body called, “*The Friendly Society*,” with a view of relieving the aged, the sick, and the poor. They purchase meal with a part of their funds, and endeavour, as much as possible, to keep down the price of victual among themselves. Sometimes a part of their capital is lent out at interest. Nothing can be better intended than this institution, and there is every reason to hope, from the judicious manner in which it is conducted, that it cannot fail to prosper.

NUMBER II.

PARISH OF DAILLY.

(County and Presbytery of Ayr.—Synod of Glasgow and Ayr.)

By the Reverend Mr THOMAS THOMSON.

Name, Extent, Surface, &c.

THE parish of Dailly is situated nearly in the center of Carrick, one of the three districts of the county of Ayr. The name is probably descriptive of the principal part of the parish, which consists of a *dale* or valley stretching along the banks of the river of Girvan, and bounded on both sides by hills of moderate height. From N. E. to S. W. the parish extends in the line of the river about 6 miles in length, and varies irregularly in breadth from 6 to 4 miles. The number of acres it contains has never been ascertained by actual measurement, but probably exceeds 17000. Prior to the year 1650, its limits were of much wider extent, comprehending a great part of what was then erected into the parish of Barr. Even within its present more moderate bounds, it exhibits great variety of surface. Gentle and irregular slopes, interspersed with holms and meadows, and beautifully diversified with natural woods and plantations, occupy the lower part of the valley, above which the hills on both sides rise with various degrees of steepness, and stretch out, especially towards the south, into bleak, heathy, and

and uncultivated moors. The only river in the parish is the Girvan, which in its ordinary state is of very moderate breadth, and no where navigable. It is fed by numberless smaller streams from the hills, some of which descend through deep and woody glens, admired for picturesque and romantic beauty. Of these glens by much the most remarkable and extensive lies on the eastern extremity of the parish, near Kilkerran, the seat of Sir Adam Fergusson. It has lately been made more accessible by a path of nearly a mile in length, cut along the brink of the torrent; and will, in time, receive a vast addition to its present beauty from the trees which have been planted on its craggy and precipitous banks. Near the lower extremity of this wild and romantic dell, once stood a chapel, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, from which it still retains the name of the *Lady-glen*.

Minerals and Mineral Springs.—The useful minerals with which this parish abounds are coal, lime, freestone, and marl. The fields of coal, in particular, are uncommonly rich and extensive, and were it not for the expence of land carriage to the coast, and the want of a good harbour at Girvan, might supply the demands of an extensive exportation. Except towards the lower extremity of the parish, they lie mostly on the declivity of the hills on the north side of the valley. Those on the lands of Mr Hamilton of Bargeny and Mr Kennedy of Dunure alone, are at present wrought; and furnish about 9000 tons annually, at the rate of 3 s. 4 d. *per* ton, merely for home consumption. It deserves to be mentioned, that a single seam, belonging to Mr Kennedy, measures 18 feet in thickness, and lies in so favourable a position, that the coal is drawn out on sledges at a very moderate expence.

The

The principal lime-work in this district is at Craighead, a hill near the western extremity of the parish, belonging to Mr Hamilton of Bargeny. The east face of this hill consists of one vast unbroken mass of lime-stone, the dimensions of which are imperfectly known. In consequence of the increased demand for lime as a manure, the rent of this quarry has within the last twenty years risen from 10l. to 245l. *per annum*.—Argillaceous marl is found in most parts of the parish, and has of late been used as a manure with great success. Beds of freestone are very numerous and extensive: some of them uncommonly fine, and much esteemed in ornamental building. The principal ridge of hills on the south side of the valley appears to consist chiefly of this substance, interspersed with strata of marl and lime-stone, over which are piled up enormous masses of pudding stone. Those on the north side are probably of a similar structure, on some of them are found extensive rocks of a basaltic nature, in the rude and irregular form distinguished by the name of *trapp*. In none of them have veins of any kind of metal been discovered.—In many places the land was formerly covered with a vast number of those “solitary masses” of granite,” so frequent in some other parts of Scotland, and the origin of which has so long puzzled the ingenuity of the naturalist. Splitting and removing these has proved an expensive, but necessary step, to the complete improvement of the soil.

Many small chalybeate springs, scattered over different parts of the parish, seem to indicate the existence of extensive strata of iron-stone; but their sources have never been explored.—On the declivity of the range of hills towards the north, a water, strongly impregnated with calcareous earth,

earth, * bursts out at different parts of the surface, in which may be distinctly traced the process of petrification, as it is commonly, though very unphilosophically, called. Large masses of opaque petrified moss are here formed; but the rapid evaporation of the water, in consequence of its free exposure to the sun and external air, prevents the concretion of the calcareous earth into those beautiful chryselline forms so much admired in the spars of Derbyshire.

Soil.—The nature of the soil is as various as the surface is diversified. Along the banks of the river, the holms and meadows, in some places of considerable extent, are generally of a light, but very fertile, soil, and capable of the highest cultivation. Wheat, though not a general crop, has been raised on some of them with great success. The more elevated grounds, which principally occupy the lower part of the valley, are chiefly arable, and, in favourable seasons, produce excellent crops of oats and barley. Those on the south side of the river are mostly of a light and dry soil, resting on a bottom of gravel, and are peculiarly favourable for pasturage. On the north side they are, in general, better, in consequence of a larger admixture of clay, both in the soil and inferior strata. The mountainous parts of the parish are almost solely appropriated to the pasturage of sheep and cattle, and although certainly inferior in value, are supposed greatly to exceed in extent the cultivated valley below. The soil is thin, wet, and spongy; and in many places covered with large tracts of moss, from which, before the general use of coal, the inhabitants were supplied with the greater part of their fuel.

Climate.

* From some rude experiments, it appears that the earth is held in solution by means of an excess of fixed air or carbonic acid, above what is requisite for neutralising quicklime into the state of mild calcareous earth.

Climate.—In the valley, the air is usually dry, mild, and of an agreeable freshness; on the higher grounds, it is often moist and chilly. This district, in common with all the country lying along the coast of the Atlantic, is subject to frequent showers from the west; but the air is rarely loaded with fogs, and the average quantity of rain throughout the year, it is supposed, does not exceed that on the other side of the island. The rains from the east are less frequent, but usually more continued. In autumn, they often damage and endanger the crops; but long habit has taught the farmer activity and skill in counteracting the evils of the climate.

State of Agriculture and Pasturage.—The mode of cultivation, and implements of agriculture employed in this district, present nothing worthy of particular notice. It is not above thirty years since the slovenly and unproductive system of husbandry, which so long disgraced the whole of Scotland, first began in this parish to give way to a more spirited and skillful practice. Within that period, all the arable, and a great part of the pasture, lands have been inclosed.—The plentiful use of lime, marl, and other manures have been adopted with great effect;—a more judicious and profitable rotation of crops has been followed;—and both hay and pasture have been much improved by the culture of artificial grasses. Notwithstanding the superiority of the present system of management, over that which formerly prevailed, there is little reason to doubt that it is still very far from having attained that degree of perfection, to which increasing experience and wealth may probably carry it, even in a district not naturally the most fertile. Hitherto, however, improvement, in the several branches of husbandry, and in the general state of the country, has advanced as rapidly as can be expected in a district where the accumulation of stock
has

has not been aided by the introduction of trade or manufactures.—Formerly a very considerable importation of corn annually was necessary for the subsistence of the inhabitants*, but of late, besides abundantly supplying the demands of an increasing population, the farmer has been able to spare a little for the consumption of some neighbouring districts.

The lands, however, in this parish, and indeed throughout the greater part of Carrick, seem better calculated by nature for pasturage than for agriculture, and justify the character given them in the sixteenth century by Buchanan,—“*Pascuis foecunda, non infelix frumento.*” The rearing and feeding of cattle, therefore, has always been a principal, and perhaps the

* Buchanan, in the short topographical sketch of Scotland at the beginning of his history, says of Carrick,—“*Tota terrestris tribus maritimisque copiis non modo sibi sufficiens, sed vicinis multa suppeditans*”; (L. I. c. 20) a praise to which, certainly, it was by no means entitled thirty or forty years ago. From the year 1529 to 1534, Buchanan was retained by Gilbert Earl of Cassilis as a tutor or literary companion, and appears, during part of that time, to have resided with him in Scotland; we may, therefore, suppose him perfectly acquainted with a district in which his illustrious pupil possessed extensive property and feudal jurisdiction. If we are to credit his account, the unavoidable inference seems to be, that Carrick, after the age of Buchanan, must have fallen from a rank, in the scale of comparative fertility and wealth, to which, perhaps, it is not yet restored.

Those who are curious in tracing the comparative value of money in this country at different periods, will not be displeased with the following statement of the prices of corn and cattle in Carrick at the time of which we have been speaking. In an inventory of the goods of Giles Blair, Lady Row, contained in her testament, dated at Balterfan, (in the parish of Kirkoswald) August 30. 1530—a cow is valued at 2 merks,—an ox at 30s.—a *two zeir-auld beast* at 1 merk,—a sheep at 5s.—a lamb at 16d.—a boll of bear and meal at 12s.—and a boll of oats at 6s. (all Scotch money.) It affords no very favourable idea of the agriculture of Carrick, in the sixteenth century, that one boll of meal was then equivalent in value to two of oats.

the most profitable branch of employment to the farmer. Improvement in this department has gone hand in hand with that of agriculture, and has not, in its effects, been less remarkable or beneficial. By means of that great and rapid rise in the price of cattle, to which, chiefly, the origin of improvement in this country may be traced, the farmer has been induced and enabled to meliorate his pasture land; in consequence of which, and in part also of attention to the breed, the stock has in a few years greatly increased in number, and still more in value. The cattle are mostly of the well known Galloway breed, intermixed with a few imported from Ireland and Argyleshire. A considerable number is here completely fattened for the markets of this country; but by much the greater part is bought up by drovers, to be more highly fed for the English market, in the richer pastures of the South.

The moorland in the mountainous part of the parish, hitherto regarded as incapable of melioration, is mostly employed in the pasturing of sheep. By a judicious selection of the best and strongest sheep for the purpose of breeding, the stock has of late been considerably mended, and the attention to that subject, which now begins to be more generally awakened, will no doubt gradually lead to higher improvement. When fed to proper age, they are much esteemed for the delicacy of their flesh; but the farmers believe it more profitable, on the whole, to bring them to market at two, or, at most, three years old. They are found to be extremely hardy, but are in general of rather a small size, and their wool is not remarkable either for quantity or fineness. The most intelligent farmers, however, seem very much to doubt the expediency of importing a larger and more delicate race; and, though not averse to experiment, will probably be cautious in parting with the present hardy breed of the country, inured to the cold, wetness, and bleak exposure of their native hills.

The

The number of those fed on the improved pastures of the valley is comparatively small, but the great profits they are found to bring, will probably lead to its increase. In the course of a single season, they generally treble their value; and a small parcel of indifferent ewes, introduced into rich pasture about the end of October, have, with their lambs and fleeces, been known in one year to rise from 5 s. to 20 s. each.

The following statement of the quantity and value of stock, and of the annual produce of land, in the parish of Dailly, has been collected from the best information which could be procured; and approaches, perhaps, as nearly to accuracy as can be expected, in an inquiry where we must often resort to probable calculation and conjecture, to supply the place of absolute certainty and truth.

Value of Stock.

125 Draught horses, at	L. 12	0	0	L. 1500	0	0
25 Saddle and carriage do.	20	0	0	500	0	0
970 Best cattle *,	5	10	0	5335	0	0
480 Inferior ditto,	3	10	0	1680	0	0
500 Best sheep †,	0	16	0	400	0	0
4300 Inferior ditto,	0	9	6	2042	10	0
Total value of stock,				L. 11457	10	0
Annual						

* Under the term best cattle, are comprehended milch cows, and stock for immediate sale. Inferior cattle comprehends the rising stock of two years old and under. Supposing the whole cattle divided into 9 parts, the proportions assigned to each of these kinds would be, milch cows, 2—sale stock 4—young cattle 3.—The average prices of all these kinds fall greatly short of what they sometimes bring. Young bullocks, at the end of the third summer, have, in some instances, been sold for 7 l. or 8 l. each.

† Best sheep are those fed on improved pasture: inferior sheep, those fed on the moor-lands. The former are calculated to yield 70 stone of wool annually, at 11 s. *per* stone, the latter 430 stone, at 9 s. *per* stone; amounting in all to L. 232.

ANNUAL PRODUCE.

<i>Crops.</i>	No. of acres under each.	Produce per acre, bolls.	Price per boll.		Total price per acre	Total produce bolls	Total Value.		
			L.	S. D.			L.	S.	D.
Oats,	800	5	0	16	0	4	0	0	0
Bear and Barley,	90	6	1	0	0	6	0	0	0
Peafe,	30	5	0	16	0	4	0	0	0
Potatoes,	80	25	0	8	0	10	0	0	0
		Stones	per Stone				Stones		
Meadow hay or } Natural grafs, }	366	150	0	0	3	1	17	6	55000
Sown grafs,	233	150	0	0	4	2	10	0	35000
Flax,	5	37	0	13	6	24	19	6	185
Straw at 2 s. 6 d. per boll of corn						0	11	3	-
Pasture at 1 l. 10 s. per horse; 1 l. 5 s. per cow; and 2 s. 6 d. per sheep									
Annual produce of gardens, at 10 s. per family									
Woods and plantations about									
Coal-works									
Liye-works									
Total value of annual produce							11,727	4	2

State of Landed Property.—No considerable property in land has been sold in the parish for several years past; and almost the whole has remained in the possession of the same families for many generations. The lands are at present divided, but in very unequal portions, among eight proprietors; five of whom usually reside in the parish; viz. Mr Hamilton of Bargeny, Sir Adam Fergusson of Kilkerran, Sir Andrew Cathcart of Carleton, Mr Kennedy of Dunure, and Captain Kennedy of Drummelland. All of these gentlemen inherit more extensive landed property elsewhere; but their ancestors, probably at a very remote period, had fixed the residence of their families in this beautiful valley. Even in the sixteenth century, Buchanan says of the water of Girvan; —“*Multis amoenis villis cingitur.* And to the constant residence of so many country gentlemen, this parish, no doubt, still owes much of its beauty. Among the most obvious proofs of this, may be mentioned, the plantations of forest trees which have been made in addition to the natural woods of the country. Those on the estate of Kilkerran, made by Sir Adam Fergusson, and his father the late Lord Kilkerran, in this parish, and within the contiguous borders of Kirkoswald and Maybole, cover about 400 Scots acres. Those on the lands of Dalquharran occupy 127 acres, and have been made chiefly by the present proprietor Mr Kennedy. This gentleman has lately built a very magnificent house in the modern castle style, on a plan of the late Mr Robert Adam. The plantations, as well as natural woods, on the other estates in the parish, are also considerable.

Rent of Land.—The valued rent of the parish is 3265 l. 10 s. 6 d. Scotch. The real rent has, as usual, kept pace with the increase of wealth and progressive melioration of land. In 1740, the annual rent of the whole parish scarcely amounted to 1000 l. Sterling: and during 20 succeeding years, its rise

was

was very inconsiderable. From the year 1760 or 1765, may be dated the beginning of general improvement in agriculture in this parish; and, since that period, the rent of land has risen gradually and rapidly to double and treble its former amount. In the year 1780, it had risen to about 2300 l. At present (1792) it amounts to 3300 l.

State of Population.—Of the state of population in this parish during the last century, scarcely any traces now remain; and even for a great part of the present century, the only source of information which exists, is a register of baptisms, the accuracy of which cannot absolutely be depended on. For the last 40 years, this register, it is believed, has been much more accurately kept*, and during the same period, a very exact private register of deaths has been fortunately preserved. Chiefly from these is collected the following table of births, deaths, and marriages in the parish, from 1st January 1751 to 31st December 1790, both inclusive, divided into 4 periods of 10 years each.

Years

* It may not be improper here to remark the pernicious tendency of the tax imposed, in the year 1783, on the registers of births and burials—a tax equally injudicious and unproductive. As the only penalty annexed to the non-payment of the tax is the omission of the article in the register, the legislature has virtually conferred a premium on every act of negligence or obstinacy. While it remains unrepealed, it must infallibly introduce confusion and inaccuracy into one of the most authentic records of the progressive population of the kingdom. From a calculation of the annual number of births and of deaths in Scotland, it appears that the gross produce of the tax, exacted with the utmost rigour, would not amount to 1500 l. Sterling. It may be questioned if the money actually received by government exceeds one half of that sum.

Years.	Births.			Deaths.			Mar.
	Mal.	Fem.	Tot.	Mal.	Fem.	Tot.	
1751—1760	207	181	388	165	143	308	76
1761—1770	182	205	387	135	142	277	84
1771—1780	198	206	404	126	143	269	103
1781—1790	280	262	542	157	180	337	106
Total,	867	854	1721	583	608	1191	369
Average,	21.6	21.3	43.	14.5	15.2	29.7	9.2

From the above table, and from the register of births for preceeding years which remain, may be collected, according to the common rule of calculation *, the following statement of the progress of population in the parish for the last hundred years.

		Souls.	
Births Deaths Births Deaths for for for for	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 4 \\ 20 \\ 20 \\ 20 \\ 20 \\ 20 \\ 10 \\ 5 \end{array} \right\}$ Years from	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1693 \text{ to } 1696 \\ 1711 \text{ to } 1730 \\ 1731 \text{ to } 1750 \\ 1751 \text{ to } 1770 \\ 1771 \text{ to } 1790 \\ 1771 \text{ to } 1790 \\ 1781 \text{ to } 1790 \\ 1786 \text{ to } 1790 \end{array} \right\}$ Inclusive	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 34 \times 26 = 884 \\ 26.7 \times 20 = 694 \\ 32.7 \times 26 = 850 \\ 38.7 \times 26 = 1006 \\ 29.2 \times 36 = 1051 \\ 47.3 \times 26 = 1229 \\ 30.2 \times 36 = 1087 \\ 54.2 \times 26 = 1409 \\ 60 \times 26 = 1560 \end{array} \right\}$

According to this statement, the number of inhabitants appears, during the first twenty or thirty years of the present century, to have been decreasing. For this decrease, if it ever existed

* That is, multiplying the number of births by 26, and of deaths by 36.

existed but in the defects of the register, no obvious cause* can be assigned. It is certain, however, both from the preceding calculations and from actual survey, that, for the last thirty or forty years, the population has been gradually and rapidly increasing. The return stated by Dr Webster, whose report was drawn up in the year 1755 †, is 839; and if this account be not inaccurate, which, however, the preceding statement affords some ground to suspect, the population of the parish must, since that period, have nearly doubled. On a survey in the year 1791, the number of inhabitants stood as follows :

Males,	-	-	-	-	781
Females,	-	-	-	-	826
Total number of inhabitants,	-	-	-	-	1607
Return to Dr Webster in the year 1755,	-	-	-	-	839
Increase in 36 years,	-	-	-	-	775

According to their respective ages they may be arranged in the following order :

From

* It has been suggested to the writer of this report, that this decrease of population may have been owing, in part, to the famine which prevailed so generally throughout Scotland towards the close of the last century. It is indeed very certain that the effects of that famine were felt with great severity in this country. The district of Carrick is said to have been deserted by many of its inhabitants; and it is well known, that several farms remained unoccupied for many years subsequent to that event.

† Dr Webster's report was drawn up in the year 1755; but from his own account (See *Introductio* quoted in *Pref.* Vol. II. *Stat. Account of Scotland*;) it appears probable that the materials for that report had been collected at least ten years before. If that was the case, the returns made to him must have given the population of Scotland as it stood about the year 1745. This hypothesis, if admitted, will nearly reconcile Dr Webster's return from Dailly with the preceding calculation from the number of births.

<i>No. of Persons.</i>		<i>Ages.</i>
From 1 to 10,	-	423
10 to 20,	-	306
20 to 50,	-	603
50 to 70,	-	216
70 to 100,	-	59
<hr/>		<hr/>
Total,		1607

It may be here remarked that no very extraordinary instances of longevity, well authenticated, have occurred of late in the parish. A man who died lately at the age of 97, and a man and woman both at the age of 94, are the only instances worthy of notice.

The inhabitants are collected into 368 families, so that there are nearly $4\frac{1}{3}$ persons in each family. As marriage is not discouraged either by a deficiency of the necessaries of life, or by an excess of its luxuries, the number of those who continue unmarried after the usual age of entering into that connection is comparatively very small. This will more distinctly appear from the following statement; to which it may be premised, that had the number of unmarried persons been taken from those above the age of twenty five, as would perhaps have been more proper, it would probably have been very considerably diminished;

Number of persons under 20 years of age,	-	729
unmarried above 20, and under 50,	215	
above 50,	-	27
married persons,	-	574
widowers,	-	19
widows,	-	43
<hr/>		<hr/>
Total,		1607

From a comparison of the total number of marriages and births for the last forty years, it may be collected that the number

number of children produced, at an average, from each marriage, is nearly $4\frac{1}{2}$.

In the calculations offered above of the probable amount of population at different periods, it was supposed, as usual, that the annual averages of births and of deaths were, to the total number of inhabitants, respectively, as 1 to 26 and to 36. On a comparison, however, of the annual numbers of births and deaths from the year 1781 to the year 1790, with the actual state of population in the year 1791, the respective proportions appear, during that period, to have been as 1 to 29.6 and to 47.6. Of course, the number of births is to that of deaths as 47.6 to 29.6; or nearly as 5 to 3. The proportion between the annual marriages and the whole population is nearly as 1 to 160.

By far the greater number of the present inhabitants have been born and educated in the parish. Almost the whole are Scotch, with exception of a few Irish, whom the rising wages of labour have of late induced to settle in the parish. The number of settlers, from other parts of Scotland and from Ireland, is, however, much more than counterbalanced by that of those who leave the parish and resort to towns, tempted by the higher wages of manufactories and domestic service.

Occupations, Mode of Living, &c.—The inhabitants live mostly in the open country, and chiefly in the lower and more cultivated part of the parish; only an inconsiderable proportion, not exceeding 170 souls, reside in a small village contiguous to the church.—The great body of the people derive their subsistence from agriculture, and the common mechanical arts connected with it. It is computed that nearly one third of the whole families in the parish are supported by the wages of common labour. Most of them, however, also rent a garden, and a piece of indifferent ground for pot herbs, potatoes, and sometimes a little corn and flax. No considerable

able manufacture has ever been established in the parish. The only artificers are those every where required for supplying the common necessaries of life. A considerable number of women, in the lower ranks, employ the greater part of their time in working up the inferior wool of the country into a coarse and flimsy cloath, which is carried to the fairs of Ayr and Maybole, and bought up for exportation at the rate of 8 d. or 10 d. *per* yard. By this species of rude manufacture, a few unmarried women and widows earn the greater part of a very scanty subsistence; but, in general, the profits of it are consumed in purchasing and working up the finer wool into cloaths for themselves and their families. The following table will give a distinct view of the division of the inhabitants according to their respective occupations and modes of subsistence.

Proprietors of land, residing,	-	-	-	5
Clergyman	-	-	-	1
Schoolmaster	-	-	-	1
Farmers above 10 l. under 20 l.	-	-	-	20
Ditto above 20 l. under 50 l.	-	-	-	16
Ditto above 50 l. under 100 l.	-	-	-	8
Ditto above 100 l. under 200 l.	-	-	-	3
Shop keepers	-	-	-	5
Ale housekeepers and retailers of spirits (most of whom follow a separate occupation)	-	-	-	18
Blacksmiths, including 4 apprentices,	-	-	-	11
Masons	-	-	-	16
Carpenters and joiners, including 7 apprentices,	-	-	-	22
Weavers	-	-	-	26
Shoemakers, including 1 apprentice,	-	-	-	9
Tailors, including 7 apprentices,	-	-	-	20
Butcher and Baker	-	-	-	1
Vol. X.	G		Millers	

Millers	-	-	-	3
Gardeners, including 4 apprentices,	-	-	-	12
Dyers, including 1 apprentice,	-	-	-	2
Milliner	-	-	-	1
Coopers, including 1 apprentice,	-	-	-	2
Stocking weavers	-	-	-	1
Flax dressers	-	-	-	1
Tanners	-	-	-	1
Colliers	-	-	-	39
Common labourers	-	-	-	118
Male farm and domestic servants	-	-	-	68
Female ditto	-	-	-	67

In their manner and style of living, the inhabitants have, within the last 20 or 30 years, experienced a very great, though gradual, revolution. Before their industry began to be stimulated by the prospect of increasing wealth, the dress and mode of living, among the lower ranks, were mean, dirty, and pernicious; and even among those in better circumstances, were not much less scanty or inelegant. Both are now as plentiful and commodious as they were formerly the reverse, and are still perceptibly improving. The low, miserable huts, in which the most considerable farmers, at the time, were formerly contented to lodge, are now replaced with tolerably neat and commodious houses. Even the cottages of the lowest ranks begin to assume a more cleanly and comfortable appearance*.

Poor

* The price of labour, it is believed, has been gradually rising during the whole of the present century; but within the last 20 years, with a rapidity unexperienced at any former period. About 60 years ago the wages of a common labourer were 2 d. per day, with victuals. Taylors and shoemakers were then usually hired by the day, and received, the former 3 d. the latter, 4 d.

Poor.—The wages of artificers and common labourers are in ordinary cases sufficient for rearing and maintaining a family; but do not always enable them to lay up a fund for old age or accidental disability. In such situations, they either receive occasional assistance, or are inrolled on the list of paupers, for regular supply from the charitable funds of the parish. Idiots and furious persons, and the children of those who die in poverty, are also usually provided for from the same funds. These funds arise almost entirely from voluntary contribution, and consist of weekly collections at the church, penalties, dues on proclamation of marriages, and the interest of about 200 l.; amounting, on an average of the last

4 d. with their victuals. Those who were occasionally employed as masons or carpenters, in erecting the rude and inartificial houses of the inhabitants, received 6 d. *per* day, with victuals. The wages of a male farm servant were then 1 l. *per annum*, and those of a female servant, 13 s. 4 d. with the perquisite of an apron or a pair of shoes.

At present the daily wages of a common labourer, during eight months of the year, vary from 10 d. to 1 s. and from 8 d. or 10 d. during the winter. The annual income of a common labourer, therefore, without reckoning days of sickness, &c. will run from 12 l. 11 s. 10 d. to 14 l. 15 s. 8 d. Masons now receive 1 s. 8 d. carpenters and joiners 1 s. 6 d. *per* day. Shoemakers and taylorers are now rarely hired by the day; the latter, when so employed, usually receive 8 d. or 10 d. with victuals. Male farm servants receive from 6 l. to 9 l. *per annum*; and female servants from 2 l. 10 s. to 4 l. During the harvest, the extraordinary demand for labourers usually raises their wages very considerably.

The rising wages of common labour and domestic service, have of late been the subject of frequent complaint among those whose interest is immediately affected. As however it is one of the most unequivocal marks, it ought, by an indifferent spectator, to be regarded as one of the happiest effects of increasing industry and opulence. It must not, however, be concealed, that among those of both sexes who are unembarrassed with the cares and expence of a family, the advanced wages of labour have had an obvious tendency to cherish the idle vanity of dress, and sometimes even the more ruinous appetite for dissipation.

last ten years, to no more than 381. *per annum*. These funds are solely in the management of the minister and kirk-session; and, in distributing a sum so moderate, the most rigid oeconomy, and vigilant attention, are required to discriminate the objects of real distress. The number of poor at present on the roll is about 40, all of whom receive assistance in their own houses; except idiots and children, for whom a regular board is paid. As the scanty allowance which can be afforded by the session is seldom adequate to a complete maintenance, some of the most helpless and indigent receive a licence, which usually procures them a small pension from the different residing heritors, and intitles them to ask alms within the parish. When these means are insufficient, they are obliged to have recourse to their own industry or to common begging.

Religious Establishment.—All the inhabitants of this parish profess the established religion, with the exception of a few seceders, not exceeding five or six, attached to the sects of Burghers or Antiburghers. The stipend of the minister consists of 3 chalders of meal, and 1 of bear; 400*l.* Scotch, and an augmentation of 25 *l.* Sterling granted in 1785. The glebe consists of seven acres of arable land, worth about 10 *l.* *per annum*. The value of the whole living amounts, at an average, to about 105 *l.* Sterling. The manse was built in 1758, and cost about 190 *l.* In 1696, the church was removed from Old Dailly to its present more central situation. It was rebuilt in 1766, and cost 600 *l.* The interest of these two sums at the rate of 7 *per cent.* raises the annual expence of the ecclesiastical establishment to about 160 *l.*

School.—Besides a few private teachers, occasionally employed by those in the more remote parts of the parish, there is

is a regular parochial school in the village, in which are taught English, Latin, French, writing, arithmetic, and book-keeping. The number of scholars is usually from 40 to 60. The salary of the school-master is 8 l. 6 s. 8 d. which, with the school fees, a house rent free, and his salary and perquisites as clerk to the kirk-session, raises the annual income of his office to nearly 30 l.

Miscellaneous Observations.—In antiquity, this parish has nothing very rare or curious to boast of. At a place called Machry-kill, there remain the vestiges of a small church or chapel, probably dedicated to St Macarius.—In this parish, and indeed throughout Carrick, the names of places, not evidently modern, are all of Celtic origin; and by a skilfull etymologist might all perhaps be traced to some local circumstance or peculiarity of situation. A considerable number occur in composition with the words *Bal*, *Drum*, *Knock*, and *Kil*; as *Balibeg*, (*i. e.* little town) *Balcamy*, *Drumgirnan*, *Drumochreen*, *Knockrocher*, *Knockgerran*, *Kilochan*, *Kilkerran*, *Kilgramic*. There are many more which cannot be reduced to any of these classes.

In the customs and manners of the people, there is nothing very peculiar or characteristic. The farmers are intelligent and respectable; those in the lower ranks are industrious, honest, and much less addicted than formerly to habitual intemperance. They are in general attentive to the education of their children; for there is scarcely an individual in the parish who has not been taught to read and write English. They discover no peculiar bias to any particular profession. Their inland situation protects them from catching the infection of a seafaring life; and the number of those who have at any time enlisted in the army has been very inconsiderable.

NUMBER III.

UNITED PARISHES OF KILCALMONELL AND KILBERRY.

(*Presbytery of Kintyre.—Synod and County of Argyre.*)

By the Reverend ALEXANDER CAMPBELL, A. M.

Name, &c.

KILCALMONELL is the most northerly part of the peninsula of Kintyre, being bounded on the N. by the isthmus at Tarbert. For a short distance, it comprehends the whole breadth of the peninsula, from Loch Tarbert on the W. to Loch Fyne on the E. till separated from the latter by the narrow but long parish of Skipness, whose northern extremity once formed a part of Kilcalmonell. The W. side extends the whole length of West Tarbert Loch, which is about 12 miles, and stretches 4 miles beyond it, along the coast of the Atlantic Ocean. The breadth of Kilcalmonell is from 3 to 5 miles. Kilberry is situated in that division of Argyreshire which gives name to the county. It is of a triangular form; bounded on the S. by Loch Tarbert, on the W. by the Atlantic Ocean; and on the N. E. by South Knapdale. Kilcalmonell, in Gaelic *Cill a Challum an Ealla*, is derived from cill, which now signifies a burying place, but is supposed to have meant originally the same with the Latin *cella*; Challum signifies Columba, and Ealla a swan. It is probable that the Columba here mentioned is the

the same person to whom many other churches are dedicated, and who founded the celebrated monastery of Icollumkill, in Gaelic *I Challum Chilli*, the island of Columba founder of cells, a designation which would very naturally be given him, instead of his former one of *Ealla*, when he arrived at the end of his peregrinations. Kilberry means the burying place of St Berry, of whom no history is on record; but it would appear that the principal heritor of that parish is descended from the saint, as he is in possession of his name, his place of residence, and his revenues *.

Appearance, Soil, &c.—The face of the country has the greatest variety in its appearance. It consists of flats and hills, valleys, woods, and lakes. The soil is equally various, consisting of sand, clay, loam, moss, and moor; the last, constituting by far the greatest proportion of the parish, is covered with heath, and for the most part ill adapted to culture. The quantity of arable land may be guessed at, from the account of crops in the statistical table, the one half of it being supposed annually in tillage. The climate is distinguished by no less variety. The transitions from mild to cold, from dry to wet, are sudden and frequent; embarrassing the projects, and disappointing the expectations, of the husbandman. This occasions frequent fevers in Spring and Autumn, but they are seldom mortal, and are almost the only diseases to which adults are subject. Children are afflicted with the hooping cough, measles, and small-pox, but inoculation has of late become almost universal.

Canal,

* The entrance to Kintyre was formerly defended by a chain of forts, one at each end of the isthmus at Tarbert, and one in the centre. The principal of them, the castle of Tarbert, is at this day a fine old ruin. It is said that it was supplied with
water

Canal, Roads, &c.—Instead of the projected canal at Crinan, to save the navigation round Kintyre, it was in contemplation to have one at Tarbert, by cutting through the above mentioned isthmus, which is only one mile in breadth, while the distance from Crinan to Lochgilphead is not less than five. The saving of expence, with the superiority of east and west Tarbert lochs as harbours, and for good anchoring ground, would more than compensate the difference of navigation saved by the Crinan canal. There are three good lines of road in the parish, kept in repair by an equivalent paid for the statute labour. One of them intersects the peninsula of Kintyre, at the distance of six miles from its isthmus. The other two are on the opposite shores of Loch Tarbert,

water by a submarine passage in pipes across the harbour; a circumstance which, if true, shews that our ancestors were better acquainted than we suppose with the laws of hydrostatics. Tarbert was in the last century the seat of a sheriffdom of the same name. There are the remains of many other old forts in the parish, particularly one with vitrified walls, and another with a very thick wall of dry stones, both built on the hill of Dunkeig, which commands the opening of Loch Tarbert. There are many cairns in the parish. Some years ago, a cottager found, in a moor on the estate of Lord Stonefield, several pieces of ancient brass armour.

Partly situated in the Kilberry division of this parish is *Sliabh Gaoil*, The Hill of Love, celebrated in ancient story as the scene of the death of Diarmid, the Achilles of the Fingalian heroes, and the great progenitor of the family of Campbell, who are known to this day by the name of *Clann Dhiarmaid*, The children of Diarmid.

Among the curiosities in this parish are immense banks of oyster shells in Loch Tarbert, with which the inhabitants manure their lands; and potatoes found growing spontaneously on the estate of Largie, in different parts of the same farm, one of which is distant half a mile from any place where that root ever had been planted. The fact is certain. How they came there, is left to the investigation of the curious. Might they not be natural to a soil so favourable to their growth, as well as to America, or the islands in the Pacific Ocean?

Tarbert, parallel to its direction; and, for the most part, through the fine natural woods with which its sides are adorned.

Ecclesiastical State and Schools.—The Duke of Argyll is patron of the parish, and has a small property in it. The amount of the teinds is 178 bolls victual, and 308 l. 14 s. 8 d. Scotch; out of which the minister, though the stipend was lately augmented by the Teind Court, gets only 63 l. Sterling, and 2 chalders of victual, Linlithgow measure; a stipend perfectly inadequate to the circumstances of the parish, which is large, populous, discontiguous, and a place of great resort, and far below what, in the present circumstances of the country, the rank and situation of the clergy would require. There is no manse. The minister receives, in lieu thereof, 12 l. 10 s. annually from the heritors. He rents a farm and farm-house. Farms are absolutely necessary to the clergy in the country, a legal glebe being too poor a substitute for the want of regular markets. There are $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres arable land for a glebe, and a servitude on a neighbouring farm of 4 cows grass. The servitude was originally on the whole of the farm; but, from the inability of the Scotch clergy to cope with superior power, the farm has been subdivided, and the minister's cows turned over to a bleak moor, where the cattle, even in summer, are starving.

There are two parochial places of worship, one in the Kilcalmonell, and one in the Kilberry division. They are distant from each other 5 miles, including a mile of sea, being the breadth of Loch Tarbert. There is a church built only at one of them, which is too small for the people, who are obliged to pay a heavy tax, in name of seat rent, to the heritors, for permission to attend it. This last observation likewise applies to a chapel at Tarbert, where divine service is

performed by a missionary, paid by the committee of the General Assembly for managing the royal bounty. He resides in the parish of S. Knapdale; but the greatest part of the mission belongs to this parish. There was a presbyterial decret passed, for building a church in the Kilberry division of the parish, many years since, which, it is expected, will soon take effect. The language of the natives is Gaelic; but some of them understand a little English. The minister preaches in both languages.

There is a parochial school in the parish; but only a small part of this district has been in the practice of contributing to its support. There is a decret for the *minimum* of legal parochial salary; but no part of the sum contained in it has as yet been paid. Two schoolmasters, appointed by the Society in Scotland for propagating Christian Knowledge, have each a small allowance. Their situation is not rendered so comfortable as it ought by the heritors or parishioners. The poverty of the people obliges them to employ the children in farming and herding, which either prevents them entirely from going to school, or makes their attendance too irregular to receive much benefit therefrom.

Manners of the People.—The people are, in general, mild and docile, punctual in their observance of religious ordinances, and regular in their lives. At a distance from the public road and from strangers, clothes, when washing, are exposed at night without being watched. And it is to be doubted whether any parish in Scotland can produce so long a list of people, with so few instances of crimes *.

Poor.

* The most unaccountable part of the conduct of the lower classes in this and in other parishes, and that which can be least easily reconciled to the hardships of their situation, is their fondness

Poor.—The funds for the support of the poor arise from the weekly collections at the places of worship, which are from 2 s. to 4 s.; the fines for delinquencies; and the interest of savings made from the funds, when there were not so many poor on the roll as at present. Those funds are distributed, at quarterly meetings, by the kirk-session, to such of the poor as are confined to their houses by age or sickness. Of this description there are on the list (not including those within the mission, which provides for its own poor) 33, to whom the funds will by no means afford an adequate relief. Such as are able to go about to beg, have licences for that purpose from the kirk-session, by which, however, they are confined to the parish. The minister has attempted, but without effect, to keep off vagrant poor, of whom a great number make their appearance in this parish*.

Fish, &c.—The well known and highly prized Loch Fyne herrings are frequently found on the east coast of this parish,
in

ness for dogs. Almost every family has one; and, in some families, there are two or three. Even paupers were found to have so unwarrantable an attachment to these animals, that threats to strike them off the poor's roll were obliged to be used before they could be prevailed upon to part with them. From the statistical table, it appears there are 400 dogs in the parish. The food devoured by these animals would feed 400 pigs, which, when a year old, would sell at 400 l. Deduct 40 l. for prime cost; and the balance, 360 l. would be the annual saving to this parish alone by such a substitution, besides prevention of danger from canine madness, as well as the loss of sheep, of which no less than 140 were, a few years ago, destroyed by dogs in a range of 8 miles, in the course of a few weeks.

* One of the paupers on the list is a man 78 years old, who, in 1745, got, in defence of the present reigning family, repeated and severe wounds, the marks of which he will carry with him to his grave.

in the immediate vicinity of the commodious harbour and fishing village of East Tarbert. West Tarbert loch has few fish, excepting the fry of feath, known by the name of *cull-dins*, the taking of which, from the smallness of their size, is considered only as an amusement. Mackarel sometimes visit it. There are likewise some shell-fish, particularly oysters, which are sold on the spot at 6 d. the hundred, and sent to the markets of Campbeltoun and Greenock.

There are in this district seals and otters, the former so numerous as to give name to a farm in the parish, *Ronachan*, Seal Field. The constant resort of this animal to Loch Tarbert, is a proof that the quantity of fish on the west side of the parish is greater than apprehended.

All the variety of quadrupeds (excepting deer) and of birds, native and migratory, (excepting the ptarmigan), found in any part of Scotland, appear in this parish. Heath-fowl, in some of the hill-farms, come in flocks, and do much damage to the corn; hares and partridges are no less destructive; yet, from the severity of the game laws, the farmer is not allowed to protect his crops from them, without leave from his landlord, as well as a heavy tax to Government.

Agriculture.—Some parts of the parish are well fitted for raising grain. Were these places inclosed and subdivided, and a judicious rotation of crops introduced, their produce might be more than doubled. Introducing oats instead of bear, would also tend much to benefit the country. The produce would be greater; much of the manure might be used for potatoes; and the oats would not be manufactured, like the bear, into a pernicious, unwholesome spirit.

Captain Campbell, son of Lord Stonefield, one of the heritors of the parish, has resided in it for a few years back, and is almost the only person therein who follows a spirited plan

of

of farming, by subdividing, draining, using the best utensils, and introducing green crops and sown grasses. It is unfortunate, however, that he has not fixed upon a better soil for his operations. All Lord Stonefield's tenants, indeed, sow turnips, a crop peculiarly adapted to the climate of this country. But, until they have small and sufficient inclosures, at his Lordship's expence, (neither their own purses nor leases being able to afford them), it is not to be expected that the turnip crops can succeed. It is but justice, however, to the memory of the late Stonefield, sheriff of the county, (whose patriotism and abilities, in promoting the Argyllshire roads, will be long remembered), to observe, that more has been done for the improvement of this estate, by large inclosures, draining, and planting, than in all the rest of the parish put together.

The minister of this parish practises an improved method of planting potatoes, which, from accurate and repeated experiments in soil not superior to the average of Great Britain, will, on a moderate computation, yield 24 s. *per acre* more than the method recommended by the most approved writers on farming. He has with success applied peat dust, and roots of kail and cabbage, as manure to the potatoes; and he has contrived a harrow for the purposes of the horse-hoeing husbandry, by which the surface can be smoothed, and weeds destroyed, without levelling the rows. He has likewise invented a plough, the sock of which is so formed as to render a coulter, (once thought so essential), with all its train of plates and wedges, an useless incumbrance. He has made improvements, too, on the curved mould-board and the chain-muzzle.

Fuel.—The fuel made use of is peat, which every family provides for itself. This substance lies contiguous to some farms,

farms, and at a distance from others; but peat-making is attended with inconveniences to all. The time consumed in preparing and leading it, which is so great a hindrance to the business of farming, with the distress occasioned by the frequent difficulty, or rather impossibility, of preparing it properly in so rainy a climate, render it highly desirable that the partial and oppressive tax on coals were repealed.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—The circumstances advantageous to the parish are its good roads, its easy communication with other parts, by means of the two lochs of East and West Tarbert, and the weekly packets from them to the low country and the Western Isles, with the arrival of a post three times a week; sea-ware, banks of oyster-shells and shell-sand, abundance of limestone, and the frequent visits made by the herrings. The disadvantages the parish labours under are, the scarcity of salt to cure the herrings, and of coal to burn the limestone;—the want of uniformity of weights and measures, hurtful to the ignorant, and inconvenient to the best informed;—the want of leases in some cases, the shortness of them in others, and the many burthenome clauses with which they are clogged;—but principally the high rents, which are beyond all proportion to the present state of improvement in the country. These disadvantages occasioned the people to emigrate in great numbers to America, before our unfortunate dispute with that country, and in smaller numbers even since that period. The spirit of emigration has again begun to appear amongst them, (see the decrease in the population within these 10 years past, by the statistical table); and, from their murmurs and complaints, it is probable it will soon arrive at such a height, that the evil complained of will cure itself, both here and in other parts of the Highlands, though not till it has drained the
nation

nation of many inhabitants, and of a consequent proportion of its opulence and importance. All the plans that have been hitherto proposed for the relief of these unfortunate people, will be of little avail towards ameliorating their condition, while the landed proprietors enjoy an unlimited power of raising their rents. Would a statute, regulating the rent of lands, be a greater infringement on the rights of the subject, than the regulation of the assize of bread, or the rate of interest?

Population.——Statistical Table.

Number of persons under		Persons born in Ireland	15
10 years of age -	736	Families - -	562
From 10 to 20 -	424	Inhabited houses -	562
From 20 to 30 -	394	Inhabitants in villages	604
From 30 to 40 -	265	Married persons -	922
From 40 to 50 -	212	Unmarried men above 50	
From 50 to 60 -	191	years of age -	2
From 60 to 70 -	135	Unmarried women above	
From 70 to 80 -	67	45 - -	21
From 80 to 90 -	21	Widowers - -	35
From 90 to 100 -	3	Widows - -	130
Total population in		Members of the esta-	
1792 - -	2448	blished Church	2448
Ditto in 1782 -	2860	Proprietors residing	4
Ditto in 1755 -	1925	----- non residing	6
Males - -	1196	Proprietors in other pa-	
Females - -	1252	ishes residing here	2
Males born out of the		Clergyman - -	1
parish - -	215	Surgeon - -	1
Females ditto -	219	Scholars, about -	150
Person born in England	1	Posts - -	3
		Postmaster	

Postmaster	-	-	1	Seamen, including fisher-	
Farms	-	-	131	men	120
Farms above 50 l. <i>per annum</i>	-	-	11	Herring buffes, making	
				up 340 tons burthen	6
Shopkeepers	-	-	5	Boats, about	30
Innkeepers	-	-	2	Carts	76
Licensed distillers	-	-	5	Ploughs, mostly Scotch,	
Private retailers of whisky, perhaps	-	-	20	and of the worst construction	143
Masons	-	-	7	Horses	568
Smiths	-	-	6	Black cattle, all ages included	4237
Clockmaker	-	-	1	Sheep	5187
Millers	-	-	5	Dogs	400
Carpenters	-	-	11	Real rent, including	
Coopers	-	-	4	services and other	
Weavers	-	-	44	burthens, anno	
Shoemakers	-	-	13	1792	L. 3570
Tailors	-	-	22	Ditto, anno 1782	L. 2617
Gardeners	-	-	4	Valued rent in Scotch	
Male farm-servants, including herds	-	-	138	money	L. 475 : 5 : 4
Female ditto	-	-	184	Bolls of oats sown	1671
Male day-labourers	-	-	40	— bear ditto	195
Male domestic servants	-	-	5	— potatoes ditto	480
Female ditto	-	-	18	Pecks of lint ditto	182

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Births.</i>			<i>Marriages registered.</i>
1784	Males 55	Females 52	Total 107	22
1785	68	80	148	33
1786	55	40	95	25
1787	61	44	105	23
1788	53	49	102	18
				1789

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Births.</i>			<i>Marriages registered.</i>
1789	Males 52	Females 52	Total 104	24
1790	56	47	103	28
1791	53	46	99	34

Explanation of, and Supplement to, the Statistical Table.

With regard to marriages, when parties belong to two different parishes, it is required by law that they be registered in both. It will be necessary, therefore, for the peruser of the statistical accounts of Scotland to observe, that the same marriage is frequently returned from two different parishes, being extracted from the parish registers, and that calculations founded on these returns must lead to erroneous conclusions.

The female day-labourers are such of the widows in the foregoing list as are able to work, and can procure employment. They get for shearing 6 d. *per* day, besides victuals, and for spinning 2 d. When they spin in their own houses, they get 4 d. for 12 cuts, or a hasp, which is reckoned 2 day's spinning.

There is no register of deaths or burials kept in the parish. The burying-grounds are many, and widely distant from each other. The general height of the people is 5 feet 8 inches: there are some above 6 feet high.

All the parishioners are farmers, excepting those that are otherwise designed in the statistical table; and even these are so upon a small scale, as they all rent a little land. Such of them as may be called manufacturers, as weavers, &c. do not manufacture for exportation. As the statistical table was made up before the commencement of the harvest quarter, at which time servants are hired for shearing, &c. the great-

est part of the farm servants mentioned in it are those employed in herding. Some of these are cottagers, who, with their families, are employed in herding in the larger farms. The rest are boys and girls, residing in the families of the farmers. The cottagers get, for wages, a house, a cow's grafs, potatoe land, and as much meal or money as will make their wages equal to that of the male farm-servants residing in the families of their masters, which, including victuals, is from 12 l. to 14 l. *per annum*. The boys and girls get from 24 s. to 50 s. *per annum*, according to their age, and the trouble of herding.

The farmers, besides having their own families constantly employed in the business of the farm, have hired servants during the harvest quarter. They are fed in the families of the farmers; and the wages of the women, during that period, is from 25 s. to 30 s.; and of the men, about 40 s. They come mostly from the Western Islands, and from the northern districts of the country. The greater part of the young persons belonging to the parish, who are not of the families of the farmers, or not employed by their parents in farming, seek for service in the neighbouring parts of the low country, at the cotton works, and other manufactures. Many of the young men are seamen employed in vessels belonging to the parish, or to the ports of Rothsay, Campbeltoun, and Greenock. The prices of provisions are not materially different from those at Greenock, the communication between the two places being regular and easy. This circumstance, too, determines the wages of carpenters, masons, &c. The clockmaker mentioned in the table is 92 years of age. He enjoys great health and activity for his years, and can travel many miles in a day, to repair the clocks and watches of the parishioners. To the scanty and precarious subsistence this affords, he is obliged to add by begging.

Crops,

Crops.—Oats are sown in April, and reaped in September. Bear is sown in May, and reaped in August. Potatoes are planted in May, and taken up for keeping about the end of October. Average produce of oats from 5 firlots, Linlithgow measure, (being the Kintyre boll), sown in the acre, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feeds. From 3 firlots bear, (Kintyre measure), to the acre, 6 feeds. From 2 bolls potatoes, or 10 herring barrels filled so as to admit of being headed, to the acre, 10 feeds. Value of black cattle, taking the average of all ages and descriptions, 2 l.; of horses, 4 l.; of sheep, 4 s. The breed of black cattle and sheep belonging to the small tenants, is far inferior to what is in other parts of Argyllshire. There are some turnips, beans, kail, cabbage, and sown grasses, in the parish: but the quantity is inconsiderable. Average yearly value of woods, 150 l.; of kelp, 20 l.

NUMBER IV.

PARISH OF KIRKLISTOUN.

(County and Presbytery of Linlithgow.—Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale.)

By Mr JOHN MUCKARSIE, *Affistant to the Reverend Mr*
JAMES LINDSAY.

Extent, Name, &c.

THE parish of Kirklistoun is divided by the river Almond into two parts, the eastern division (which is about one fourth of the whole) lying in the county of Mid-Lothian, and the western in the county of Linlithgow. The parish is of a form extremely irregular; but the length may be $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and the average breadth $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The ancient name of the parish was Temple Liston. Lioston, according to an eminent antiquarian lately deceased *, signifies, in the Celtic, an inclosure on the side of a river. This compound, in progress of time, may have been contracted into Listoun, of which name there are several places in this parish; Hall-liston, Oldliston, Newliston, Iliston or Highliston, and Kirk-liston, the latter being the name of the village in which the church is placed, as well as of the whole parish. The probability of this conjecture is strengthened from a circular mound of earth, of great antiquity, surrounded with large unpolished

* Sir James Foulis.

unpolished stones, at a considerable distance from each other, evidently intended in memory of some remarkable event. Tradition, however, relates, that a family of the name of *Liston* possessed great property in this neighbourhood; and it may still appear doubtful whether the place derived its name from the family, or the family from the place.

Soil, Produce, &c.—The soil varies from a strong clay to a rich black mould, the only exceptions being a few haughs, (evidently formed by the changing of the river's course), composed of a light earth and deep sand. In a few places, the clay land is extremely wet, and difficult to labour; but the whole of the parish is arable, and has been, for time immemorial, under tillage.

Wheat, barley, oats, pease, beans, hay, potatoes, yams, and a few turnips, are the ordinary produce. The average quantity of the first five may be from 7 to 8 bolls, Linlithgow measure, the Scotch acre; but it is not uncommon to have, in the most fertile places, 12 and 14 bolls. From the present high state of cultivation, it is evident that attention to agriculture was early introduced; and it is a well attested fact, that Lord Stair was the first in Scotland to plant turnips and cabbages in the open fields. All the lands in the parish have been long ago enriched with lime; and many attempts were made, though with less success, to lime a second and a third time with increased quantities. Every common expedient has been also employed to increase the quantity of dung; and some of the farmers have carried their speculations not only to the rotation from black to white crops, but also to varying the different crops in the rotation.

The manner of ploughing is with two horses, without any assistance from oxen. The ploughs are after Small's construction.

struction.—The farms, in general, are not large. Excepting 3 or 4, which may contain from 300 to 500 acres, they run from 100 to 200 acres. The increasing desire of accumulating this kind of property, has not operated to a very great extent for 50 years past. One farm of 500 acres presently maintains, in connection with it, families consisting of 47 souls *. The diligence and activity of the farmers are equal to

* The disadvantage to population by the accumulation of farms, must arise chiefly from the habit and capacity of doing more work with fewer hands ; and even this to a whole nation may be lessened by the reduction in the price of grain, from an additional quantity in the market. But the chief disadvantage of this ruinous and prevailing practice arises not so much from its effects on population, as in changing manners and habits. It destroys the balance, in point of numbers, between masters and servants, and produces a considerable effect on the spirit and independence of a whole nation. The evil may be lamented ; but, during the state of rapidly increasing cultivation, where a capital is required, and where the knowledge of the business is confined, there can be little hopes of a cure. In a general and high state of cultivation, however, when the existence of a family will become of importance, and the labour of it procure the means, when superiority in the art will only consist in close attention, when persons of this character will be able to afford the highest price for land ; and finally, when there shall be no extraordinary demand for men to the other departments of civil society, this evil will naturally cease to exist. It is to the local and partial operations of those principles, that we must ascribe the general equality and moderation of farms in this parish ; and, if these were universal, the facts would more certainly follow. In the mean time, though the proprietors of land are excusable in adopting the best method of bringing their property, in the speediest manner, to the greatest value ; yet have they it much in their power, without interrupting the general plan, to prevent the inconveniency. A few acres, lying contiguous to the villages, divided among the inhabitants, would greatly attach them to the soil, by giving them a property and existence in the country. It would better their condition, and increase their numbers, by blending together the characters of the mechanic and husbandmen ; and, far from diminishing, it would add to the value of land.

to their knowledge of the business. The farm-houses in this parish are extremely commodious, and even elegant. They consist of two floors, besides garrets, are covered with blue and grey slate, and are in all respects superior to the generality of country manfies.

Character and Manners.—With the exception of a few families, the whole people may be divided into two classes, farmers composing the one, and mechanics and servants the other. The former being almost wholly on the same level, live together in the most intimate habits of friendship and hospitality. From the increasing civilization of manners, the fashion of the times, and other accidental causes, they have, within the last 40 years, entirely departed from the pernicious custom of having their meetings for business or amusement in the public-houses of the parish. They now assemble together in the family stile, and conduct their entertainments with the sobriety and delicacy becoming family manners. The morals of the common people have continued nearly in the same footing for many years. The only fact which constitutes a difference between the people of this rank in this and the greater number of country parishes in Scotland, is the extreme difficulty of rising above their humble condition. The equality of the farms, and the want of manufactures, afford no hope to servants and mechanics of becoming masters in their several professions. By this means, while the industry of the people is not materially affected, the desire of accumulating money is scarcely known *. Hitherto

* The time, however, does not seem to be far distant, when the ambition for gaiety will give place to habits of intemperance. It is utterly impossible that spirits can remain at their present price, (about 3 s. the English gallon in retail), without becoming the beverage of the common people. About 20 years ago,

thereto this has been followed by no bad consequence to their manners, because the excess of their wages has been spent in an innocent, if not useful, profusion in their appearance.

Population.

ago, in this parish and neighbourhood, there were seven breweries, where at present there are only two ; and each of the seven brought more ale to the market than both the present ones do. It is evident, that, in the same period, the consumption of spirits must have proportionally increased ; and it is an indisputable fact, that the use of spirituous liquors gives the prospect of unlimited excess. The progress towards this horrid state is more imperceptible in the country than in large towns ; because, in the latter, the daily, and even hourly, price of labour, supplies the constant means ; and, in the former, sobriety is, in all cases, a more important recommendation ; but the habit of drinking spirits will finally overcome every sentiment of honour and ambition in the human character. It must be allowed at the same time, that the depravity of the individual may be the temporary riches of the state, when depravity is the subject of taxation ; but no man of integrity would desire to see a rich Exchequer, and a weak, enervated, and debauched people. Nothing can be of the smallest service for the cure of this evil, but that which effectually raises the price of spirits, and makes ale a more palatable and substantial beverage.

Population.

	Fami- lies.	Souls.	Children under 9 years.	Children above 9 years.	Males above 9 years.	Females above 9 years.	Dissen- ters.
Heritors -	3	26	2	1	10	14	
Farmers -	44	324	23	60	167	134	24
Cottagers -	85	352	102	63	115	135	} 15
Day-labourers	34	111	19	20	46	46	
Widows -	69	150	21	24	24	105	
Innkeepers -	9	38	5	10	12	21	} 170
Mechanics, &c.	108	503	111	103	201	191	
	352	1504	283	281	575	646	209

From this table, it appears that there are $4\frac{1}{2}$ persons to a family, and that the proportions betwixt males and females is as 8 of the former to 9 of the latter. It is presumed that every other useful proportion connected with population may be deduced from this table. The vast disproportion between the numbers in the families of the farmers and of the cottagers, may be partly accounted for by the latter being obliged to send their children sooner into the world, and the servants employed by the former. The return to Dr Webster in 1755 was 1461 souls. The average of baptisms for 11 years preceding 1790, is 48; of these the proportion of males to females is as 8 of the former to 5 of the latter. The accuracy of the records, however, cannot altogether be depended on; and of those children which are not inserted, the probability is, that the greatest number are females. The average of marriages during the forementioned 11 years, is $11\frac{1}{2}$; and of the deaths, no accurate account can be given.

Eminent Men.—The celebrated John Earl of Stair, Field Marshal of his Majesty's forces, a nobleman equally distin-
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guished for enterprize and capacity in the field, and for wisdom in the cabinet, inherited from his mother the estate of Newliston in this parish, where he resided for 20 years subsequent to his recall from his embassy at Paris in 1720, and seems to have bestowed much attention on his maternal inheritance. The pleasure grounds, nearly three miles in circumference, are entirely after his design, covered with trees of his planting, and adorned with artificial lakes. Although his military ideas have evidently entered into every part of the plan, yet the extent of the whole prevents any bad effect, and Newliston may be considered as a most delightful place. He died here in 1747, and was buried in Kirkliston church, without a monument to point out the spot where he lies *.

Rent.—The valued rent can easily be ascertained from the cess-books; and of the real rent it is impossible to make any just calculation. There seems to have been great changes of landholders here as in all the parishes in Scotland. About 7 old mansion-houses, belonging to as many different proprietors, have, within a century, been converted into farm-houses, or gone to ruins, as inconvenient or unfit for that purpose. A property in this parish, consisting of 161 acres, in

* A remarkable monument of antiquity, known by the name of the *Catstone*, standing on the farm of that name in this parish, has exercised the critical abilities of several antiquarians. This monument is a single stone, about $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet in height, from the surface of the ground, and measuring $11\frac{1}{2}$ feet in circumference. The form is an irregular prism, with the following inscription on the south-east face, deeply cut in the stone, in a most uncouth manner:

IN OC T
VMVLO IACI
VETTA D
VICTA

in 1709, yielded a rent of 80 l.; in 1788, the clear rental of these lands was 181 l.; and they were sold for 4052 l. 10 s.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church of Kirklistoun was one of those belonging to the Knights Hospitallers of St John of Jerusalem, who had large possessions in this parish at the time of the Reformation.

Diseases.—For time immemorial, no putrid fever, nor pleurisy, nor inflammation of the throat, nor fever of any kind; have been epidemical in this parish. There have been, of late, frequent instances of one or other of these diseases extremely fatal and common in the neighbouring parishes, while the inhabitants of this have altogether escaped. This, perhaps, may be accounted for from local situation. About 60 years ago, the ague was a common disease; but there is now scarcely an instance of it in the parish. At the same time, there is no remarkable instances of longevity. There are, perhaps, 5 or 6 above 80, but none who have reached 90. The diseases of children are, in general, extremely mild; and nearly one half of the inhabitants practise inoculation. The only estimate of deaths in the parish is that which is supplied by the accounts of money received for the use

We are informed by Buchanan and other historians, that there was a bloody battle fought near this place, on the banks of the Almond, in the year 995, between Kennethus, natural brother, and commander of the forces of Malcolm II. King of Scotland, and Constantine, the usurper of that crown, wherein both the generals were killed. About two miles higher up the river, on the Bathgate road, is the circular mound of earth formerly mentioned. The whole intermediate space, from the human bones dug up, and graves of unpolished stones discovered below the surface, seems to have been the scene of many battles. This is rendered probable from the importance of the situation, as the first opening after the Carse of Stirling, from the North and West Highlands, to the richer places of Scotland.

use of the mort-cloth, which constitutes part of the funds for the support of the poor. They are not sufficiently accurate for any purpose, but that of stating a proportion to establish the fact with regard to epidemical diseases. In 72 years, a period which ought nearly to comprehend all the varieties of season, the number of burials, where the mort-cloth is used, are from 8 to 14, with the exception of 20 for one year.

State of the Poor.—The funds of the poor in this parish arise from the collections at the church-door; from the mort-cloth; from the letting of seats in the area of the church; from the interest of a bond for 200*l.*; and from occasional assessments. The following is the amount of the funds for 10 years.

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Amounts.</i>	<i>Assessments.</i>
1782	L. 50 4 1 $\frac{3}{4}$	
1783	47 17 8	
1784	32 16 4	
1785	100 2 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	L. 42 17 4
1786	53 14 8	13 0 0
1787	87 7 11	
1788	62 9 0	20 0 0
1789	49 5 1	
1790	79 7 3	36 0 0
1791	87 5 11	40 0 0

By subtracting the assessments from the total of the sums in the years in which they were given, there remain the sums raised by the other funds above mentioned. The average of collections for these 10 years is 20*l.* The numbers on the poor's list for 3 years are as follows.

In 1782	43	5
In 1785	42	
In 1790	55	

In

In the year 1782, the industrious poor were provided for by a voluntary subscription ; and the money was distributed by a committee of subscribers. The sum raised in this manner was upwards of 80 l. This circumstance prevented any alteration in the funds or the list for that year. The private charities (if what is given regularly for a continuance of years deserves no better name) are so considerable and extensive as to render the above statement inadequate to the actual number of poor in the parish.

N U M-

NUMBER V.

PARISH OF KIRKTOUN.

(*Presbytery of Jedburgh.—Synod of Merse and Tiviotdale.—County of Roxburgh.*)

By the Reverend Mr BENJAMIN DICKISON.

Extent, Appearance, &c.

THE parish of Kirkton extends in length about 8 miles from E. to W. and in breadth betwixt 1 and 2, from N. to S. Though without any distinguished mountains, the face of the country presents a continued range of hills, separated only by small rivulets, and gradually ascending from E. to W. The soil, in general, is dry, light, and shallow, with a bottom of hard or shelly rock, and productive of nutritive grass, even to the summits of the hills. Though evidently destined by nature, and, in its present unsheltered state, fit for pasturage alone, a considerable proportion of the land is kept in tillage, and sown with oats, pease, and bear, though without any regular rotation. The produce, at an average, is less than 3 after 1, and much inferior in quality to that which was sown. Potatoes and turnips are planted to a small extent, and cultivated with success. The different kinds of clover and grass seeds have been tried; but, in general, from want of shelter and defence against pasturage at improper seasons, have either not sprung at all, or been destroyed by the winter frosts and storms. Attempts have been made,
and

and still are making, to meliorate the grain, and increase the quantity, by the modern plans of husbandry, with lime, marl, and fallowing, the effect of which, however, in this unpropitious soil and climate, is only a greater quantity of straw. The reason the farmers ascribe for this unprofitable train of culture, is the necessity they lie under of providing winter food for their cattle. These indeed, and sheep, are, and ought to be, the great object of their attention, as the principal, and, at present, almost the only source of subsistence and wealth.

Manners of the Inhabitants, &c.—Neither the records of the parish, the monuments of antiquity, nor the customs and morals of the inhabitants, exhibit any object particularly meriting the attention of the philosopher, the politician, or the moralist, unless this, which, though not a singular, is rather an uncommon fact, that its history, for ages past, may, with the strictest regard to truth, be comprehended in a few words, “*One generation passeth and another cometh.*”

There is here neither town nor village. Annexed to each farm-stead are a few cottages, reared, in general, of turf and stone. The inhabitants are poor and indolent, contented and frugal. The indigent, to the number of 12 or 13, are supported by a poor's rate, levied equally upon the landlords and tenants, and the collections in church, amounting in all to about 30*l. per annum*, which so fully supplies the needy, that there is not an itinerant beggar in the parish. From the purity of the air, and the temperance of the inhabitants, fewer diseases prevail here than in any spot of Scotland perhaps of the same extent. Agues, rheumatisms, and consumptions, are the most frequent. Wine is only seen at funerals, whisky at weddings; and, in 2 or 3 houses excepted, ale is a stranger.

Markets,

Markets, &c.—The nearest market town is Hawick, about 3 miles distant, where vivres are sold nearly at the same rate as in Edinburgh. The great road from Edinburgh to Newcastle, by Selkirk and Hawick, passes through the middle of this parish; one of the great advantages of which to this neighbourhood, is the opening up an easy access, over the border mountains, to the coal-mines in the west parts of Northumberland. These and the peat-mosses, with which the country abounds, furnish abundant, though expensive fuel. There are vestiges of some wood; but, at present, not a tree, and scarcely a bush is to be seen in the parish.

<i>Population.</i> —Number of			Bachelors above the age	
souls in 1755	-	330	of 50	- - 4
Ditto in 1792	-	342	Unmarried woman above	
Males	-	172	the age of 45	- 1
Females	-	170	Widowers	- - 6
Under 10	-	63	Widows	- - 8
Between 10 and 20	-	71	Members of the establish-	
Between 20 and 50	-	159	ed Church	- 292
Between 50 and 70	-	38	Seceders	- - 50
Between 70 and 80	-	8	Proprietors resident	- 0
Between 80 and 90	-	3	——— non-resident	4
Families	-	66	Farmers under 50 l. <i>per</i>	
Married persons	-	78	<i>annum</i>	- - 3
Children, at an average			Farmers above 50 l. <i>per</i>	
for each marriage	-	4	<i>annum</i>	- - 14
Average of births for 6			Smith	- - - 1
years past	-	$5\frac{1}{2}$	Carpenters	- - 3
Average of deaths for ditto	-	$3\frac{1}{2}$	Weavers	- - 6
——— of marriages for			Taylor	- - - 1
ditto	-	4	Miller	- - - 1
Wages of a man servant <i>per annum</i>				- L. 7 0 0
				Wages

Wages of a maid fervant <i>per annum</i> , without victuals	-	-	-	-	-	L. 3 10 0
———— taylor <i>per diem</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0 0 8
———— day-labourer <i>per diem</i> , without victuals	-	-	-	-	-	0 1 0
———— mason <i>per diem</i> , without victuals	-	-	-	-	-	0 1 6
———— carpenter <i>per diem</i> , without victuals	-	-	-	-	-	0 1 3

School and Ecclesiastical State.—The schoolmaster of the parish has a dwelling and school-house. His income, including salary, perquisites, and school-wages, does not exceed 12 l. *per annum*. The minister's stipend was lately augmented from 55 l. to about 80 l.; but there is now depending a process of reduction before the Court of Teinds. The Crown is patron, and titular of the teinds. The glebe contains about 5 acres. The manse was built about 30 years ago, and lately repaired. The church is an old, incommodious, pitiful edifice, not sufficient to contain a third of the inhabitants, small as their number is.

<i>Rent and Stock.</i> —Valued rent in Scotch money						L. 4526
Real rent, in Sterling money, somewhat more than						L. 1000
<i>Number of</i>		<i>Value of each at an average.</i>			<i>Total value.</i>	
Horses	- 80	-	12 l.	-	-	L. 960
Black cattle	400	-	5 l.	-	-	L. 2000
Sheep	- 4000	-	12 s.	-	-	L. 2400
Stones of wool annually produced						500
———— Average price, 1792, 17 s. <i>per stone</i>						L. 425

From the above statement, it is evident, that, according to the present rate of markets, the farmers may pay their rents from their folds and stalls, and have a little reversion, allowing the other productions of their lands for supporting their families,

families, and paying their servants wages, which they may with strict oeconomy accomplish.

Miscellaneous Observations.—Though both soil and climate, in their present state, are unpropitious to improvements, there is no doubt that the modern plans of husbandry might be carried on with success. To do this, the most likely method would be to plant wood, in such proportions and directions as might most effectually break the violence of storms, and thereby prevent the roots of the young plants from being torn up or broken, and the ripened grain from being shaken out. For poor grain, and unproductive crops, are more owing to the autumnal winds, than either to poverty of soil, or severity of climate. This would necessarily lead to the making of inclosures, the advantages of which are well known to every farmer in the more cultivated parts of the country. Besides the improvement and increase of grain, and the melioration of summer pasture, by the young grafs and clover being saved and sheltered in winter, abundance of better food might be raised for the winter subsistence of sheep and cattle, and a superior breed of both might be thus introduced, to the great emolument both of landlord and tenant.

It is surprizing, that the proprietors here practise so little the elegant and permanent improvement of wood and inclosure, especially as they seem, in other respects, well disposed to encourage their tenants in meliorating the grounds, and increasing the quantity and value of the productions, by purchasing manure, and making of roads.

NUMBER VI.

PARISH OF TRANENT.

(County and Presbytery of Haddington.—Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale.)

By the Reverend Mr HUGH CUNYNGHAME.

Name, Extent, &c.

TRANENT is generally supposed to be a corruption of Trinity; and the form of the church is alledged as a proof of the derivation *.

This parish is bounded by the Frith of Forth on the N.; is about 6 miles in length, from N. E. to S. W.; and its greatest breadth is 3 miles. The great east road runs through the town, and divides the parish into nearly two equal parts. The land towards the sea is inferior in quality to none in Scotland, renting generally from 40s. to 50s. *per acre*, tho'

a

* In the charters of St David to the Abbey of Holyrood-house, it appears the name of this parish was formerly Travernent; for mention is made of one Thoraldus de Travernent, i. e. Tranent. Admitting this, the idea of Trinity is destroyed; and reference seems rather, according to the Latin, to be had to sailing, which corresponds with a tradition still extant in the opposite coast of Fife, that a party of Danes once landed on their shore, but were suddenly obliged to seek refuge in their boats, and put to sea. The cry of the exulting natives was Tranent, or Travernent, *Let them sail over, or right across*. Accordingly, they landed in this parish, from which circumstance it had the name.

a few fetch more. The land to the S. of the post road, though the greatest part of it be of a good quality, lets at a rate considerably lower. The whole of the parish is arable. There are, however, upwards of 100 acres of common, and a considerable portion of link ground, still in a state of nature. Improved muir lets at 15 s. and 20 s. *per acre*; inclosed and cultured links at 36 s. and 40 s. The high rent of these lands is owing to the peculiar advantages of their situation. The face of the country is remarkably pleasant, rising by a gentle ascent from the sea to the southermost extremity of the parish. The town of Tranent commands an extensive view of the adjacent country, the Frith of Forth, and the opposite shore *.

Property and Agriculture.—The parish is divided amongst 9 greater, and nearly double that number of smaller, proprietors. Three of the first either statedly or occasionally reside, and most of the latter. The valued rent of the parish exceeds 10,900 l. Scotch; and the real rent, inclusive of houses and gardens, 6000 l. Sterling †. There are in the parish 3 farmers who rent above 300 l.—5 above 200 l.—4 above 100 l.—8 above 50 l.—and 17 above 20,—besides a great number possessing from 40 to 5 acres, or under.

Agriculture

* The climate is exceedingly good, and the air healthy and dry. The town of Tranent has long been reputed particularly healthy. Intermittent fevers, in particular, are seldom known. Inoculation being little practised, the small-pox is frequent. The year 1792 is, however, an exception to the general healthiness of the place. An epidemical fever, of a putrid nature, prevailed upwards of 10 months, and carried off a great number in the prime of life.

† Houses and gardens were rated a few years ago at 425 l., 8 s. 9 d. Deducting this from the 6000 l. the remainder, 5575 l. will be nearly the rent of the land.

Agriculture in this parish is, in general, in the same flourishing state that characterises East Lothian at large. The great proportion of acres possessed by people who take land from necessity and convenience, makes the proper management of it but a secondary object.

To give an idea of the quantity of each species of crop at an average, a statement of the different sowings for 1791, and the supposed produce, is annexed.

	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Produce</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Total Value.</i>
		<i>per acre.</i>		<i>L. s.</i>
Wheat -	650	- 7 bolls -	at 21 s. -	4777 10
Barley -	430	- 6 ditto -	at 18 s. -	2322 0
Oats -	741	- 6 ditto -	at 13 s. -	2889 18
Pease & beans	312	- 7 ditto -	at 12 s. -	1318 0
Potatoes	35	- L. 8 -	- - -	280 0
Grass feed	394	- 200 stones	at 4 d. -	1313 6
Pasture -	423			
Fallow -	346		Total	L. 12,900 14

Total acres 3331 exclusive of roads, planting, and common.

No value is put upon 423 acres of pasture. The quantity of turnips raised here is trifling; and no lint is sown but for private use. If for these articles, a sum, not exceeding 400*l.* is added to the preceding table, the total amount, 13,300*l.* will be nearly the annual produce of the parish. The late invention of threshing-mills seems to have met with the approbation of the farmers, there being already 4 of them in the parish.

Commerce, Fisheries, Manufactures, &c.—The sea coast, which is perfectly flat and sandy, excepting the rocky ground where the villages of Cockenzie and Port Seton are founded, forms

forms the boundary of the parish for nearly 2 miles. There is one small harbour at Port Seton, which, previous to the Union, was a place of considerable resort, being the nearest port to Prestonpans, whose merchants had upwards of 20 vessels belonging to them. At present, the shipping is confined to a few east country and coasting vessels. The imports are timber and iron, and sometimes corn and malt, for the accommodation of neighbouring distilleries. The chief, if not the only export, is salt. The shore-dues seldom exceed 30*l*.

A manufacture of great salt, of a very particular fine quality, was established here a few years ago by Dr Schwediaur; but, from various circumstances, the scheme totally failed. In Cockenzie, which connects with this village, the manufacture of common salt is carried on to great advantage and extent, 10 or 11 pans being constantly at work. The internal resource of coal which the proprietor enjoys, gives a decided superiority over every other person, who must either import his coals, or purchase them from the nearest coal-master.

Off the coast, there is a considerable oyster-scalp; but, of late years, the oysters have become very scarce. This must be attributed to over-dragging several years ago, to supply English vessels from Milton, Lee, and other places. Before this, a boat would sometimes drag 9000 a day, which, at 5*d*. 6*d*. and 7*d*. a hundred, afforded a handsome income to the crew. The common average lay betwixt 4000 and 7000. At present, 700 or 800 are reckoned a good day's work, which, though now sold indiscriminately at 15*d*. *per* hundred, afford but a scanty livelihood when divided amongst 5 men, including a double deal to the owner of the boat. There are at present 10 boats, belonging to Cockenzie and Port Seton, engaged in this fishing. Upwards of 20,000
oysters

oysters go regularly each season to the Glasgow market *. Few or no white fish have been taken off the coast for several years. Haddocks, in particular, have become a great rarity. Whitings and flounders, at present, sell on the shore at 2 s. 6 d. *per* scull, (containing about 6 or 7 dozen), which, a few years ago, would not have brought above one third of that price.

The most considerable distillery now in Scotland, belonging to Aitchison, Brown, and Co. is carried on at St Clements Wells, in this parish. From this work alone, Government receives about 4000 l. of revenue yearly. There was originally a small still used here; but, by the spirited exertions of the present Company, it has attained to its present flourishing state. Coal is conveniently situated in a park adjoining to the work. The seam is about 2 feet thick, at the depth only of 15 fathoms, and the coal cost the work at the rate of 5 s. *per* ton. 900 Cattle, and 300 swine, are annually fed at the work. In these different branches, the feeding of cattle, distilling, and working of coal, about 120 hands are employed.

At Cockenzie is an annual fair, held the first Thursday of November, which, like most of the country fairs, owing to the extension of commerce, is much on the decline. Formerly, cattle were brought to this market; now, undressed lint of home growth is the chief article of traffic, and seldom exceeds the price of 2 s. *per* stone. In Tranent is a good butcher market twice a week, from which Prestonpans, Ormiston, and the adjacent country, are principally supplied. In 1791, about 250 oxen, 70 calves, and 1350 sheep and lambs,

* The demand from Glasgow has not been so great this year; but some of the boats have found a ready market, and good price at Newcastle, to which they have performed several trips during the harvest months.

lambs, were killed by the different butchers. There is here also a considerable tannery, and a small manufacture of locks and nails. A good many looms are employed in the parish, but chiefly for private use, though a few do what is called factory work. One only weaves muslin.

Collieries.—Besides the small seam of coal already mentioned, wrought for the supply of the distillery, there are other 3 collieries in the parish, Tranent, Elphinston, and Birkley. The best seam is that of Elphinston, being no less than 9 feet thick, at the depth of 32 and 25 fathoms, according to the ascent and descent of the surface. Below this is a seam about 5 feet thick; and there are different small strata above, at present not worth the working.

		<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>
Produce of this colliery in 1790	-	6053	15
in 1791	-	8348	10

It is reckoned, that at these different collieries, including bearers, overseers, gin-men, and bank-men, about 150 hands are employed; and, if the great number of cinder-burners are taken into the account, it is evident that a considerable proportion of the parishioners either belong to, or are connected with, the collieries. The influence they have in forming the manners of the lower classes, is of course considerable; and, according to their frugal or extravagant way of life, the poor's funds are more or less burdened.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church is a very ancient, incommensurable, and unhealthy fabric. No account of its antiquity is any where to be found; but most people skilled in architecture have little hesitation in pronouncing it 500 or 600 years old. The outward form resembles 3 oblong buildings, placed sideways, the middle being considerably longer at each
end

end than the other two. The communication within is by arches of different forms and sizes. A square tower rises from the centre of the whole, supported by the side walls of the middle building, and by two cross arches. The roof is vaulted, and covered with stone. The windows are few, and ill constructed; and, in a dark and gloomy day, serve only to make "darkness visible." Either the church has originally been sunk below the surface of the ground, or the surrounding burying-ground has been much heightened by the immense number of bodies interred in it; for the access to the pulpit is by a descent of 4 steps from the church-yard.

The manse is large, and well executed, and was built in 1781. The stipend consists of 27 bolls of wheat, 26 bolls of barley, 43 bolls of oats, 500*l.* Scotch, including 60*l.* for communion elements, besides a glebe of nearly 6 acres, and somewhat more than an acre of muir, the minister's proportion of the division of a commonity. The King is patron, in consequence of the attainder of the Earl of Wintoun. The present incumbents are, the Reverend Mr Charles Cunningham, settled in 1740, and the Reverend Hugh Cunynghame, ordained assistant and successor in 1784. Besides the two established clergymen, there is a minister of the Burgher persuasion*.

Population

* *Schools.*—The salary of the parish schoolmaster is only 7*l.* and some odd shillings; but what with the dues arising from the session and heritors clerkships, from the offices of precentor, collector of road-money and poor's rates, and the profits of the school, the amount is considerable. The present master is burdened with an annuity of 20*l.* to his predecessor, who resigned. The heritors, sensible of the inconvenience and hardship of the bargain to a young man of merit, with a rising family, generously and voluntarily added 5*l.* *per annum* to the salary, built a new school, and fitted up the master's house in a manner commodious for the reception of boarders. The numbers educated

Population Table.

Number of souls in the	Children under 8	-	197
whole parish in 1755	Widowers	-	31
2459	Widows	-	58
----- in 1783	Families of 1 person each		54
2496	----- of above 1 each		271
Males above 8	-	947	Number of souls in the
Females ditto	-	1102	whole parish in 1791
Children under 8	-	447	2732*
Widowers	-	48	Under 8 years of age,
Widows	-	127	about
Families of 1 person each	111		-
----- of above 1 each	562		Under 12
Of these in the village of			-
Tranent	-	1130	In Tranent
Males above 8	-	416	-
Females ditto	-	517	Cockenzie and Port Se-
			ton
			-
			Seton
			-
			86
			Relief

at the parish school may be from 60 to 80. School wages are paid weekly, which is a bar to the regular attendance of the children; for many parents, having occasion for their children at home in the beginning of a week, through a mistaken and ill-directed parsimony, keep them from school all the rest of it.

There are at present 7 other schools in the parish, 4 of which are taught by men, the remaining three by women. None of them have any salary except one, voluntarily paid by the proprietors of the ground and the residing partner at St Clements Wells. About 70 scholars attend it in summer. At the different schools in the parish, in summer 1791, about 220 scholars were taught. There are besides, two Sabbath evening catechetical exercises; one supported by an annual collection at the church-doors, the other upon the establishment of the Society in Scotland for promoting religious knowledge amongst the poor.

* The increase of population betwixt 1783 and 1791 was owing to the sale of the estates of the York Buildings Company in this parish, the purchasers thereof feuing small spots for houses and gardens; to the enlargement of a distillery; and to a new colliery.

Relief and Meadow Mill	115	Brewers	-	-	4
Elphinstone	-	206	Butchers	-	7
Weston Falside	-	145	Smiths	-	13
St Clements Wells	-	74	Wheelwright	-	1
Rest of the parish	-	296	Barbers	-	2
Clergymen	-	3	Stocking-weavers	-	3
Surgeons	-	2	Slaters	-	2
Shopkeepers	-	12	Sadler	-	1
Wrights	-	25	Saltmakers	-	22
Masons	-	15	Fishermen	-	50
Weavers	-	40	Licensed alehouses	-	30
Shoemakers	-	62	Burgher Seceders	-	110
Tailors	-	12	Antiburgher ditto	-	8
Coopers	-	2	Relief ditto	-	1
Tanners	-	4	Episcopalians	-	10*
Bakers	-	12			

Poor.

* A very accurate register was kept of the births and burials of the parishioners until the year 1784, when the tax upon recording them was imposed, which many persons refused to pay, and therefore omitted making any entry. The record, consequently, became imperfect in this, as well as in many other parishes in Scotland.

The register before mentioned contains all the deaths of parishioners, though buried in a different parish, all included in the following tables: it likewise contains the deaths of a considerable number dying in adjacent parishes, and buried in Tranent, and children at nurse sent from other places; but these are not included in the tables.

TABLE

Poor.—Betwixt 30 and 40 pensioners are generally supported, (at present the number is under 30), besides occasional poor *. The poor's funds arise

From collections at the church-doors	-	-	L. 30
Mort-cloths and hearse	-	-	15
Seat-rents in the church	-	-	3
An annuity from Dr Schaw's Hospital, granted in consideration of the minister's accepting of the trust specified in his will	-	-	2
Annualrent of 100 l. bequeathed by the late Lord Bankton, at 4 <i>per cent.</i>	-	-	4
An yearly assessment of 52 l. whereof the tenants pay the one half, but of which seldom more than 46 l. is made effectual	-	-	46
Total			L. 100
			Fines

TABLE I. showing the number of Deaths, and at what ages, in the parish of Tranent, from 1755 to 1784, a period of 30 years, distinguishing males and females.

		Males.	Fem.			Males.	Fem.
Under	1	101	110	Brought over	587	564	
Betwixt	1 & 2	85	71	Betwixt	65 & 70	42	57
	2 & 3	53	35		70 & 75	49	61
	3 & 4	44	23		75 & 80	45	57
	4 & 5	20	18		80 & 85	50	56
	5 & 10	41	26		85 & 90	17	21
	10 & 20	31	29	Aged	91	1	4
	20 & 25	28	16		94	1	1
	25 & 30	17	19		95	1	0
	30 & 40	37	37		96	0	2
	40 & 50	31	39		98	1	1
	50 & 60	60	79		99	0	1
	60 & 65	39	62		102	0	1
Carried over		587	564	Total	794	826	

Births.

* In 1782 and 1783, the number was above 60.

Fines for irregular marriages, exactions for private baptisms, marriages, &c. go for private uses, for which no funds are appropriated;

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Fem.</i>
Births in the same period of 30 years	1094	1055
Deduct deaths - - - -	794	826
Difference, mostly emigrated - -	300	229

TABLE II. showing the probability of the duration of life, at all ages, among males and females, in the parish of Tranent, taken from the foregoing abstract of deaths for a period of 30 years, the deaths taken as a radix.

Age.	Males.	Deaths.	Fem.	Deaths.	Age.	Males.	Deaths.	Fem.	Deaths.
0	794	101	826	110	25	391	4	498	4
1	693	85	716	71	26	387	4	494	4
2	608	53	645	35	27	383	3	490	4
3	555	44	610	23	28	380	3	486	4
4	511	20	587	18	29	377	3	482	3
5	491	14	569	12	30	374	3	479	3
6	477	10	557	6	31	371	4	476	3
7	467	8	551	4	32	367	4	473	3
8	459	6	547	2	33	363	4	470	3
9	453	3	545	2	34	359	4	467	4
10	450	3	543	2	35	355	4	463	4
11	447	3	541	3	36	351	4	459	4
12	444	3	538	3	37	347	4	455	4
13	441	3	535	3	38	343	3	451	4
14	438	3	532	3	39	340	3	447	4
15	435	3	529	3	40	337	3	443	4
16	432	3	526	3	41	334	3	439	4
17	429	3	523	3	42	331	3	435	4
18	426	3	520	3	43	328	3	431	4
19	423	4	517	3	44	325	3	427	4
20	419	5	514	3	45	322	3	423	4
21	414	6	511	3	46	319	3	419	4
22	408	6	508	3	47	316	3	415	4
23	402	6	505	3	48	313	3	411	4
24	396	5	502	4	49	310	4	407	4

Age,

appropriated; such as paying an assistant to the parish school-master, transporting cripples, &c.

Expenditure

Age.	Males.	Deaths.	Fem.	Deaths.	Age.	Males.	Deaths.	Fem.	Deaths.
50	306	5	403	5	74	126	10	156	12
51	301	5	398	6	75	116	9	144	12
52	296	5	392	7	76	107	9	132	12
53	291	6	385	8	77	98	9	120	12
54	285	6	377	8	78	89	9	108	12
55	279	6	369	8	79	80	10	96	12
56	273	6	361	9	80	70	11	84	12
57	267	7	352	9	81	59	11	72	11
58	260	7	343	9	82	48	10	61	11
59	253	7	334	10	83	38	9	50	10
60	246	7	324	11	84	29	8	40	9
61	239	8	313	12	85	21	7	31	8
62	231	8	301	13	86	14	4	23	5
63	223	8	288	13	87	10	3	18	3
64	215	8	275	13	88	7	2	15	3
65	207	8	262	12	89	5	1	12	2
66	199	8	250	12	90	4	1	10	2
67	191	8	238	11	91	3	1	8	2
68	183	9	227	11	92	2	1	6	2
69	174	9	216	11	93	1	1	4	1
70	165	9	205	12	94			3	1
71	156	10	193	13	95			2	1
72	146	10	180	12	96			1	1
73	136	10	168	12					

Of the males stated as having died at 93, three, and of the females at 96, three also, were alive; but these are of no consequence in forming a table. In every other respect, it is made to correspond with the deaths mentioned in Table 1.

From the foregoing Tables, it appears probable that the emigration of males is chiefly between the ages of 25 and 37, and of females between the ages of 18 and 28. Until the emigration is completed, the probabilities of the duration of life are by the Tables always too low, and, before it commences, very considerably so.

The small-pox, in the natural way, very frequently makes great ravages among the younger children, especially when attended with the hooping cough.

Although Table 2. is correct only from the year at which the

Expenditure to the parish poor for the last 12 years, including occasional charities.

From November 1780 to November 1781	L. 81	12	0
From ditto 1781 to ditto 1782	-	95	14 0
From ditto 1782 to ditto 1783	-	144	0 0
From ditto 1783 to ditto 1784	-	121	7 0
From ditto 1784 to ditto 1785	-	120	13 0
		From	

the emigration is completed, which may be supposed to be about 38 or 40, as to males, and about 28 or 30, as to females, yet sufficient data are given for making it correct, first, by adding the number of emigrants to the radices for each year, till the emigration commences, and afterwards deducting, along with the deaths, the proportion of emigrations thought nearest the truth; when all are subtracted, the numbers living and dying will coincide with the Table. The number of persons living, of all ages, by the corrected Table, (after deducting the half of the births), divided by 30, (the number of years), will then be equal to the number of inhabitants: thus,

Number of males at all ages who die in the parish 27084
 Deduct $\frac{1}{2}$ of births - - - - - 547

26537

To which add 31 times the number of male emigrants, being a medium between 25 and 37, the supposed years of emigration - - - - - 9300

Divide by 30) 35837

Male inhabitants 1194

Number of females at all ages who die in the parish 33687
 Deduct $\frac{1}{2}$ of births - - - - - 527

33160

Add 23 times the number of female emigrants, being a medium between 18 and 28, the supposed years of emigration - - - - - 5267

Divide by 30) 38427

Female inhabitants 1280

Total male and female inhabitants 2474

Wanting only 22 of the real number.

From November 1785 to November 1786	L, 109	9	0
From ditto 1786 to ditto 1787	-	-	110 13 0
From ditto 1787 to ditto 1788	-	-	106 1 0
From ditto 1788 to ditto 1789	-	-	102 0 0
From ditto 1789 to ditto 1790	-	-	89 10 0
From ditto 1790 to ditto 1791	-	-	85 16 0
From ditto 1791 to ditto 1792	-	-	88 0 0*

The effects of the year 1782 are evident from the above statement. The parish funds bore the whole of the burden; and, considering the high price of oat-meal, (1 s. 6 d. *per* peck), the additional and unavoidable expence of these years seems extremely moderate. All the inconveniencies of that memorable year seem now to be over; and, notwithstanding the increased population of the parish, there is reason to believe, the expenditure to the poor will be considerably lower than for many years previous to 1782. This hope is founded on the good effects (already felt) of the different charitable institutions belonging to the respective trades of the parish and neighbourhood. There are four of these societies, or *boxes*, as they are called, in the parish, and a great number of people connected with others at a distance. It is a fact worth mentioning, that although, by the fatal fever of the current year 1792, upwards of 30 fatherless children, and a proportionable number of poor widows, are in great measure left destitute, not a single application from that quarter has as yet been made for public charity †.

Miscellaneous

* The increased expence for the current year, 1792, is owing to a greater number of occasional poor in distress, the stated pension list being considerably lower than that of last year.

† The most ancient place in the parish, so far as known, is St Germans, now the seat of David Anderson, Esquire. There was

Miscellaneous Observations.—The battle of Preston, in 1745, was fought partly in this parish, the scene of action lying about half a mile to the north of the church. The remains of the gallant Christian hero, Colonel Gardiner, who died in the minister's house of the wounds he received in the field, lie interred in the west end of the church.

The post road running through the parish is an evident advantage, as thereby an easy communication with the metropolis, on the one hand, and Haddington, the best corn market in the kingdom, on the other, is opened. The nearness, and consequent cheapness, of coal, is an acknowledged convenience to the place, though the scarcity of water is an effectual bar to manufactures that owe much of their success to the low price and plenty of fuel. There is but one spring
to

was here an hospital, but by whom founded is uncertain. In Ragman's roll, mention is made of *Barthelmu Mestre de la meson de St Germen*, anno 1296. In later times, St Germans belonged to the Knights Templars, but was, with most of its revenues, bestowed by King James IV. upon the King's College of Aberdeen in 1494.

At Seton was a collegiate church, founded for a provost, 6 prebendaries, 2 singing boys, and a clerk, out of several chaplainries united for that effect by George Lord Seton, the 20th June 1493. The charter of foundation is afterwards confirmed by Andrew Abbot of New bottle, therein designed *Apostolicae Sedis Delegatus*. He built likewise the vestry or Sacristy of Seton, and covered it over with stone, in the reign of King James IV.; and, dying soon afterwards, was buried near the high altar of this collegiate church. The building is still almost entire.

Close by the church stood the princely ruins of Seton-house, the residence of the Earls of Wintoun. Upon the attainder of the late Earl in 1715, the estate fell to the Crown, by whom, in 1719, it was sold to the York Buildings Company, who suffered the house to fall to decay. In 1790, the whole was taken down by the present proprietor, to make way for a house, now almost finished, on a design of the late Mr Adam, in the old castle form.

to supply the whole town, which is conducted to the head of it in wooden pipes. The inhabitants, towards the bottom, are obliged to bring it to their houses in barrels upon carts. A plan has been in agitation to raise a sum to carry the water through the town in a leaden pipe. But the permanent proprietors differ as to the mode of raising it, and there the matter at present rests.

The near vicinity of the coal has likewise its disadvantages. The poorer classes of the community are attracted to the place with the flattering prospect of cheap fuel; and many of the operative people about these works, being none of the best economists, the poor's funds are, of course, sensibly burdened. The grievance to the landed property is the greater, as these lucrative mines, from their precarious nature, plead an exemption from poor's rates. The great number of carts that daily resort to the different collieries, are extremely destructive of the roads; so that, in many places, some of the cross roads in this parish are almost impassable. 60*l.* the statute money of the parish, scarce serves to fill up the track; and great part of that sum is expended at improper seasons. A bill is proposed to be brought into Parliament next session, which, it is to be hoped, will remedy the above inconveniencies, so sensibly felt, at least in this parish.—At a moderate computation, betwixt 3000 and 4000 gallons of whisky are annually retailed in the parish, besides what are commissioned by private families from the stills. The extraordinary consumpt of this article throughout Scotland at large, may indicate a thriving trade, and a productive revenue, but affords a small prospect of a sudden increase in moral and social virtues.—There is an excellent white freestone quarry in the neighbourhood of Tranent, out of which several of the modern houses in the county have lately been built. There was, within these few years, a chalybeate spring,

spring, in considerable repute, at Bankton; but it has now disappeared, having found its way into the waste below. A small library was established last year for the use of the parish. The number of volumes, as yet, does not exceed 200. The increase, in a great measure, depends on the countenance and support of the more opulent ranks. The Statistical Account, so far as published, constitutes part of the collection.

N U M.

NUMBER VII.

PARISH OF EDZELL.

(*Presbytery of Brechin.—Synod of Angus and Mearns.
—County of Forfar.*)

By the Reverend Mr ANDREW HUTTON.

—Surface and Extent.

EDZELL is situated on the N. E. corner of the county of Forfar. The body of the parish is a kind of peninsula, formed by the two radical branches of the North Esk, called the East and West Waters, which here unite, and form what is properly stiled the North Esk, a considerable river, separating the counties of Forfar and Kincardine, and containing many lucrative salmon fishings. This peninsula is about $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles in length, by $1\frac{1}{2}$ in mean breadth, and is considerably distinguished from the rest of the parish in soil and fertility. The soil here is generally light black earth, or sharp gravel, with a tinge of clay; and the bottom is gravel or yellow sand. Beyond this is another district, betwixt the hills and a projection from them, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length, from E. to W. and 1 mile in breadth, the soil of which is more mixed with clay, upon a bottom generally of cold wet clay. This quarter will sometimes yield good crops of oats and bear, but is not so grateful to the farmer as that of the former district. Beyond this, the parish stretches 6 or 7 miles up the East Water, with a breadth of about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile. Here the soil is
still

still inferior, being stony or sandy, with a bottom of gravel, mixed with large stones or rock.

Proprietors, Rent, &c.—The first of these three districts, about one half of the second, and the whole of the third, belong to the Honourable W. Maule of Panmuir. The remaining part belongs to Sir Alexander Ramsay Irvine, Bart. The first district, whose surface is almost a dead flat, never fails, with good management, to produce, in ordinary years, good crops of oats, bear, (rough bear or Chester), pease, turnips, flax, and potatoes. The land, though less strong and rich than in many other places, is dry and early. It has happened for a course of years, that when the crops have greatly failed in other places of the country, the farmers in this quarter have enjoyed crops much above the rate of their neighbourhood. Artificial grass, especially white clover, prospers well; but that rich and permanent sward of grass which is found in more powerful soils, is wanting here. Rent, in this quarter, does not exceed 9 s. *per* acre, which is easy to pay, from the industry and improvements of the present lessees. About 60 acres of village lands, occupied by about a dozen of families, give 15 s. or thereby. The tenants in this quarter stand chiefly by grain and black cattle. The two other districts have not the same advantages, as labour upon them is liable to be kept back in seed-time; and the crop, from the wetness of the bottom, is subject to be cast too late in harvest. One half of the middle district, whereof the soil is inferior, rents still lower than the former division. The other half yields about 10 s. In this quarter, the tenants have the advantage of sheep, in addition to their grain and black cattle. The rent of the third district, which is far from means of improvement, and which is still more exposed to bad seasons, cannot be well ascertained. The profits

sits of the farmer arise more from sheep and cattle than from grain.

Climate.—The air is generally sharp and piercing, as the surface of the parish is for the most part bare of shelter, and is opposite to two glens, which generate a current of air. No unwholesome vapour can arise, on account of the quick circulation of water, as there is every where a ready communication with the rivers, whose channels are deep and rapid.

Natural

Diseases.—There are no very remarkable instances of longevity. One man, who had been born, and lived most of his life in this parish died a few years ago, near to the age of 100. Another gave an account of himself, which must have made him to be above that age: but it appears from the records, that his claim was not well founded. One woman now lives in the village above the age of 90, and is still able to move about: another is 86. Several have reached above 80. The most prevailing complaints are, asthma amongst the men, and hysterical disorders amongst the women, rheumatism in both sexes. These may, in part, be caused, or not a little heightened, by poor diet, hard labour, and sorry lodging. Consumptions are also fatal to persons in this parish. No peculiar epidemical disorder prevails. Several years ago, many were cut off by an infectious putrid fever, which was, however, more fatal in some neighbouring parishes. The people are fast surmounting their prejudices against inoculation. Some observe, that the ague was frequent in their youth; but the complaint is now hardly known.

Antiquities.—The castle of Edzell is one of the most magnificent ruins any where to be met with. It long belonged to the family of Lindsay, and now belongs to Mr Maule of Panmuir. It consists of two stately towers evidently in different styles, and built at different periods. These are connected by an extensive wall; and large wings went backwards from the towers. Tradition says, that the square tower, the most ancient, was built and possessed by the family of Stirling, from whom it descended to Lindsay of Glenesk. Of the former family, no traces now remain in these parts. The Lindsays of Glenesk, afterwards of Edzell, make a distinguished figure in Scottish history. Buchanan mentions several remarkable actions in which these chieftains

(reguli

Natural Productions.—The water of the North Esk has obviously a petrifying quality; because the rocks through which it runs are of all degrees of consistence, from sand in the very first stage of concretion, to stones of sufficient hardness for all the purposes of rubble building. There is also a lime-quarry, to which all the tenants of the proprietor have right. It has been of some service for a long course of years; but the difficulty of procuring fuel to burn the lime-stones, is a bar in the way of its being very extensively useful. There are still many spots of natural birch. But there is not a doubt this parish once abounded with fine oak and beech, as stately trees are often found in the mosses. There is a tradition,

(*reguli de Glenesk*) were engaged. After coming to the possession of Edzell, their power surpassed that of any other family in the county. One of this family, about the beginning of last century, built a small castle, called *Auchmull*, in this parish, and another, called *Innermask*, in Lochlie, as lurking holes, while he was forced to skulk several years for the murder of Lord Spynie. One of them succeeded his cousin, Earl Crawford, who had disinherited his own son; but the honours and estate afterwards reverted to the natural heir. The last of this family left the country about 1714 having greatly degenerated from the martial character of his progenitors, and afterwards died in the north of Scotland, or in Orkney, in poverty and wretchedness. This family, like other powerful chieftains, possessed the power of life and death upon their estate. The place of execution still retains its name.

In two different parts, appear those monuments of antiquity commonly named *Druidical temples*. Two of these are found at Culindie, considerably up the glen, within a few yards of one another. They consist of tall upright stones, inclosing elliptical spaces; the largest about 45 feet by 36, the smallest somewhat less. There is in one the appearance of a small portico or entrance. They must be of very great antiquity; because the stones of which they are formed, though exceedingly hard in consistence, are yet hollowed and wasted away by the weather. Several miles further south, at Dalbogg, is a third, but not so entire as the two former. The ground on which they stand is considerably elevated.

tion, that the elevated grounds, dividing the upper and lower quarter of the parish, were formerly clothed with wood; now they bear only heath. Previous to 1714, there were some avenues to the castle of most stately beech, of which hardly a vestige now remains. The late Earl of Panmure, about 20 years ago, made two plantations, chiefly of Scotch fir; one of them about 4 miles in circumference, the other of less extent. Both are thriving admirably, and promise advantage to the proprietor, and much benefit to the country.

Birds and animals are much the same as in other parts of the country. Birds of passage are, the cuckoo, swallows of different species, sea-gulls occasionally, from a loch in the neighbourhood. Birds of song are, linnets, thrush, black-bird, red-breast. Wild animals are, fox, hare, otter, polecat, weasel. No deer are inhabitants of the parish, although a severe storm sometimes occasions a visit from them. There is a considerable salmon fishing. The fish are mostly disposed of by contract with merchants in Montrose concerned in the London trade. The sheep may amount to about 2000. The horses and cattle are not distinguished by any remarkable circumstance. Till lately, the horses were in general rather of middling strength, but the breed is gradually improving. It is believed that the parish supplies itself with that article, but it does not much more. The farmers here have not hitherto attended much to search out the best breed of either horses or cattle. The better sort may average about 18 l.; the inferior much lower. Best oxen, from 3 to 4 years old, about 6 l. Best cows about 5 l.; inferior, 3 l.

State of Agriculture.—Under this head, the circumstances of the parish, compared with what they were 30 years ago, offer a very pleasing subject of contemplation. At that period, the greater part of it had been recently held of tacksmen
under

under the York Buildings Company, by a precarious and cruel tenure of one, two, or three years. The tenants had no encouragement to industry, and they were not industrious. Almost their only mean of subsistence arose from their sheep. The land hardly repaid labour; 40 or 50 threaves (4 flocks) have been often talked of as then insufficient to yield a boll of grain. In tilling the miserable soil, they used often 6 horses, such as they were, never less than 4, often 4 horses and 6 cattle. Lime, as a manure, was almost unknown. Now, they enjoy the security of leases, judiciously granted, to encourage the erecting of good steadings, and improving the ground. Lime has been employed with great success. An instance lately occurred, of about 16 bolls of oats, and another of 20 bolls of bear, after one. The usual average may be about 6 returns of the seed. The ground is almost never let out of cropping, without being laid down with grass seeds. The ordinary space of so lying is 4 years, of which the first, and sometimes the second, is hay; the remainder pasture. From two fifths to one half is generally in grass. The land is cropped 4 years, of which one or two are green crops. Turnips suit well, but are not yet cultivated to the height which they will probably soon reach, as it is not as yet very common to raise them for the purpose of feeding. Every one has them in greater or less quantity, as winter food for milch cows and young cattle. Flax suits this soil. The average quantity raised may be about 16 acres. Cabbage, as a field crop, has been tried in several cases with good success. The quantity of potatoes raised is very considerable, as almost every family is connected with land, and supply themselves with that most useful root. The grain is such as may be expected. It is neither so weighty nor valuable as that produced from carse or richer inland soils; but it is, in general, at least equal to that of the surrounding country.

try. No wheat, and but little barley, is raised. The bear is not remarkably large in the grain, but is thin in the rind, weighs well, and recommends itself to the maltster and meal-maker. Oats, in ordinary years, give 16 pecks of meal, of 8 stone, after 16 pecks of grain. Until within a few years ago, the old Scotch plough was universally used, even on the most clear and easy soils; and the harness was such as the ordinary farm servants could make. Now, Small's plough, with the short iron head, and cast metal mould-boards, is getting into use. Harness, of the most complete kind, is every day coming into fashion. Two horses, with one man to work them, are now pretty general, and will soon be wholly established, as the price of labour is high; and more attention will be paid, of course, to the rearing and keeping of horses. It appears that agriculture, at some distant period, was pursued to considerable extent; because the present race of tenants, notwithstanding their great progress in improving waste lands, have not yet gone so far as their forefathers reached. Many tracks of land are found, with the marks of cultivation, pretty far up the hills, and in many other spots now covered with heath, which the farmers of the present day have not yet been able to overtake.

Rent.—There are two farms above 50 l.; 10 from 20 l. to 50 l.; upwards of 30 below 20 l.; some so low as 3 l. independent of the village lands, which are occupied by 13 persons at about 48 l. Total rental at this time 950 l.

Population.—There is ground to believe, that population, in the last century, was at least equal to what it now is. From the entry of baptisms in the old records, it appears that the village (Slateford) was then more populous than now. There are intimations of other villages, of which there is now little more

more than a vestige. Many farms are named which do not now exist; and the adjoining farms have not received a proportional increase. The foundations of buildings are frequently found where there is not now a house. Indeed it would not be surprising that population should flourish in the immediate vicinity of a powerful family, so able, in turbulent times, to protect its retainers, and disposed to encourage settlers, by the appointment of village fairs, markets, and otherwise. The parish would seem to have lost, in point of population, from the Revolution till within the space of 20 or 30 years ago, when the numbers have probably increased.

Population Table.

Number of souls in 1755	862	In the village	-	117
----- in 179 $\frac{1}{2}$	963	In the country	-	846
Males - - -	470	Married persons	-	294
Females - - -	493	Children of each marriage at an average	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Under 10 - - -	228	Widowers - - -	14	
Males - - -	111	Widows - - -	24	
Females - - -	117	Bachelors above 50 -	10	
Between 10 and 20 -	212	Unmarried householders under 50 -	10	
Males - - -	114	Unmarried women above 45 - - -	8	
Females - - -	98	Episcopalians -	40	
Between 20 and 50 -	371	Bereans - - -	10	
Males - - -	163	Seceders - - -	2	
Females - - -	208	Roman Catholic -	1	
Between 50 and 70 -	114	Persons not connected with any denomination - - -	2	
Males - - -	63			
Females - - -	51			
Between 70 and 100 -	38			
Males - - -	19			
Females - - -	19			
				Persons

Persons who cannot read,			Alehouse-keepers	-	4
strangers - - -	3		Smiths - - -	-	5
Proprietors (non resi-			Tailors - - -	-	9
dent) - - -	2		Waulkmiller - -	-	1
Clergyman - - -	1		Masons - - -	-	2
Schoolmasters (1 parish,			Drystone dykers -	-	3
1 Society. 1 private)	3		Wheelwrights and turn-		
Average scholars taught			ers - - -	-	2
English, writing, arith-			Wrights - - -	-	5
metic - - -	45		Shoemakers - - -	-	5
Merchant - - -	1		Flaxdressers - -	-	4
Shopkeepers - - -	3		Weavers - - -	-	13
Maltman - - -	1		Lint-miller - - -	-	1
Carter - - -	1		Houses inhabited -	-	205
Male farm servants -	66		—— built within	4	
Female ditto - - -	50		years - - -	-	24
Day labourers - - -	17		—— turned to other		
Cottarmen, servants to			purposes, ditto -	-	6
their landlords -	16				

Manufactures, Exports, &c.—No manufactures are carried on. The only shadow of them is, that the weavers generally make pieces of coarse cloth for country use, which they sell at the different markets in the neighbourhood. The exports are, oats, bear, meal, black cattle, sheep, yarn, butter, cheese, fowls, eggs, and coarse cloth. The imports are, wood, iron, leather, house and farming utensils, salt, tea, sugar, spirits, fine cloth, many of the necessaries, and almost all the luxuries of life. These, however, are not yet consumed in an extraordinary quantity; and the exports do certainly far overbalance the imports*.

Circumstances

* *Prices of Provisions.*

<i>40 years ago.</i>			<i>At present.</i>		
Meal per boll	-	8 s.	-	-	15 s.
					Bear

Circumstances and Character.—The people are nearly of one class and condition. Their way of living arises, either wholly or in great part, from the culture of the ground. Their manners are suitable to their condition. Most of the farmers are now in easy circumstances, the consequence of the hard labour, frugality, and attention of the present generation. They have not laid aside those good habits. With few exceptions, they are distinguished for integrity, sobriety, and diligence. Acting from a sense of their relation to their Maker, they are, of course, punctual and serious in performing the duties of religion. Their devotion, too, is of a rational, tolerant nature, not breaking out into heats against those who entertain different opinions, but manifesting itself in

	40 years ago.	At present.
Bear <i>per</i> ditto	- 8 s. -	15 s.
Eggs <i>per</i> dozen	- 1½ d. 2 d. -	5 d. 6 d. 6½ d.
A fowl	- 4 d. -	9 d. 10 d.
Butter <i>per</i> lib. of 24 oz.	4 d. -	8 d. 10 d. 11 d.
Butcher meat <i>per</i> stone	2 s. 6 d. -	4 s. 4 s. 8 d. 5 s.

Prices of Labour.—A sufficient ploughman's fee from 7 l. to 8 l. subsistence about 4 l. Total L. 11 or L. 12
The cottager's encouragement, being in ground and servitudes, may be rather better for himself; but, all things weighed, cheaper to his master. This useful class of men, who are going fast out of fashion, form in their families the best nurseries of male and female servants.

Young men from 14 to 19, fee 4 l. 10 s. or 5 l.	subst.	ence 4 l.	-	-	-	Total L.	9	0	0
Herds for cattle from 11 to 14 years of age, fee 1 l.	10 s.	subst.	3 l.	-	-	Total L.	4	10	0
Female servants, average fee about	-	-	-	-	-	4	0	0	
Men shearers for whole harvest, with subsistence	-	-	-	-	-	1	10	0	
Women ditto,	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	0	
Men shearers, and mowers of hay, about the village,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<i>per</i> day, with subsistence	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	0	
Women ditto	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	9	
Day-labourers in summer, with meat, 6 d. and 8 d.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
without, 10 s. and 1 s.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

in an equal and charitable spirit. The dissenters from the established Church attend occasionally upon it, and live with the minister and people as if there was no difference in their views. Splendid acts of beneficence do not fall within their lot. But the poor in the several quarters of the parish, in such severe seasons as this, in point of fuel, find themselves cared for by their neighbours, when even the good aliment from the session funds could not command the carriage of that essential article. In the year 1783, so distressful to Scotland, the farmers in the body of this parish had a better crop, and more safely got in, than in almost any part of the country. Several of them manifested their good dispositions, by sending meal to be disposed of by a proper person in a central spot, to such householders as were recommended by the kirk-session, considerably below the market price. The people here are, in general, extremely contented with their condition; and they have no small cause to be so, as even the poorest of them, both men and women, who enjoy health, have abundance of work, and good encouragement. Even the cottars, subtenants, tradesmen, and labourers, who have families, have their children sought after almost as soon as they are able to do any thing; and the education of the young folks is often helped forward by those with whom they reside, in order to attach them more strongly as servants. The people here have no propensity to emigration and adventure. Not above one or two are in the army, and none in the navy. A considerable number of the present inhabitants were born in other parishes, but all are natives of Scotland. To this contented, quiet spirit, it is probably owing that flagrant crimes do not occur. It is beyond a doubt, that the people are much improved since last century, both in morals and in manners. In the old records, there are instances of persons subjected to discipline for dragging nets on
the

the Sabbath; and farmers, with their wives and servants, convened in parties for drinking, fighting, and scolding, on the Lord's day during divine worship. Such irregularities would now cause horror.

Disadvantages.—One disadvantage under which this parish formerly laboured, was the want of opportunities of giving their children education, from the inconvenient form and circumstances of the place. That is now remedied, to a certain extent, by a school appointed under the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, (whose institutions are producing admirable effects), above two years ago in one quarter, and by a private school established since, by the aid of one of the proprietors, in another. The encouragement of the parish schoolmaster is pitiful, and, from the alteration of circumstances, in no respect what it was originally intended to be. Another disadvantage, which probably never can be remedied, so far as to render this corner the seat of any extensive manufacture, is scarcity of fuel. The moorlands are generally steep, and far distant; and the labour of preparing and carrying home peat, &c. is excessive; and even these are nearly exhausted. Montrose, the sea-port town, is distant about 12 miles, which greatly enhances the price of coals. The proposal, however, to remove the coasting duty, is a most gracious and seasonable motion, and, we may hope, will contribute, with other circumstances likely to happen, to allow that useful article at a reasonable rate. Other fuel is turf, cut from the muirs, and broom, which is of service, while the improvements in agriculture allow any to remain.

Poor.—The number of poor, upon an average of the last 6 years, is 12. The average of the sum distributed to them for the same period, 181. The session funds arise, in part, from

from the interest of a sum of money, in part from the voluntary collections in the church, which average 141. These two maintain the poor in such a way as not only to be free of complaint, but to give full satisfaction to themselves, and to those who live around them. If any happen to be wholly helpless, board is allowed for them to their nearest relations; or, if they have none such, persons are paid for undertaking the care of them. There are two stated meetings, at Whitsunday and Martinmas, for the purpose of fixing the rates of the following half year, and for purchasing clothes. There is no great danger of imposition, as the poor must have resided 3 years, at least, before any aid can be given. The elders in each quarter, by conversing with neighbours, and by their own observation, are able to form a pretty just judgment of their necessity.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church is a very old, strong building, incommodious in itself, and inconveniently situated for the whole parish. The date of the building is not known; but it must have been erected long before the year 1641, as I find that the kirk-session in that year paid the “Schaitter” for poynting the kirk, 5 l. 13 s. 4 d. Scots. It. Mair of “drink filler to his boy, 6 pennies.” The manse was built 71 years ago, indifferently executed at first, in a low situation, has been often repaired at a considerable expence, and now is in bad condition. The stipend is about 61 l. with a glebe worth about 7 l.: but a process of augmentation is now depending. The Crown is patron.

N U M.

NUMBER VIII.

PARISH OF ABERFOYLE.

(*Presbytery of Dunblane.—Synod of Perth and Stirling.
—County of Perth.*)

By PATRICK GRAHAM, A. M.

Extent, Name, &c.

THE utmost length of the parish of Aberfoyle, E. and W. is about 11 miles; its utmost breadth, N. and S. 5 miles. This parish derives its name from the British term *Aber*, which signifies the confluence of two rivers or streams. This confluence takes place near the church, where a small river, called, in Gaelic, the *Poll*, i. e. the stagnating water, falls into the Forth at right angles. In that language, *Poll* is, in the genitive case, pronounced *foil* or *foyle*, whence *Aberfoyle*.

The general aspect of the country is extremely picturesque *. Aberfoyle forms a part of the extreme precinct of the Highlands; and it bears the common features of the

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mountain-

* The public will soon be gratified with a more particular view of the interesting scenery of this neighbourhood, than is consistent with the limits of a statistical account, in the magnificent work of the Messrs Boydells of London, now in the press, entitled, "Picturesque Views and Scenery of the Thames and Severn, the Forth and the Clyde." In the 2d volume of that work, nine beautiful drawings, by the masterly pencil of Mr Farington of the Royal Academy, are devoted to this particular district.

mountainous districts to the N. and to the W. This parish consists of a narrow track of country, bounded on every side by lofty hills and mountains. The bottom of the valley is occupied by a series of beautiful lakes, skirted with woods of oak, ash, and birch; and their banks are occasionally diversified with scanty portions of cultivated ground, the soil of which has, in the course of ages, been washed down from the mountains, and deposited by the streams.

The mountains are sometimes covered with oak woods more than half way up. The lower eminences are, for the most part, covered to their summits. The higher regions are chiefly overgrown with heath; and sometimes they present only the bare rugged rock.

The most considerable lakes are Loch Ketterin, Loch Con, and Loch Ard. The former is about eight miles in length, and one in breadth. Loch Con and Loch Ard are each between two and three miles in length. These lakes abound with eel, pike, and trout, all esteemed excellent in their kinds. The fish caught here, however, bears no price, as there is no market to which it can be brought; nor is there any restriction with regard to the fisheries of these lakes.

The river Forth has its rise in the western extremity of this parish. After passing through the lakes, and receiving many accessions from the streams that descend from the mountains, it bursts forth, at the lower extremity of Loch Ard, with considerable magnificence, over a rock near 30 feet high. Hence it flows with a less agitated current through the eastern district of the parish, which forms a beautiful and fertile valley, (denominated by the natives, according to a correspondent Gaelic term, *the Laggan*), surrounded, like the rest of this district, on all sides by hills, with a narrow opening towards the S. E. by which the Forth, after having passed some woody heights, and a beautiful round hill, entirely covered

covered with oak, issues into the plain. The highest mountains bound the vale of Aberfoyle to the north, and display, in some places, very abrupt rugged and tremendous precipices. Several streams, and the waters of a lofty cascade descending from them, join the river as it flows amid the woods, meadows, corn-fields, and farm-houses in the valley. In this part of the parish the church and manse are situated.

None of the mountains of this parish exceed the second rate in height. Benivenow and Benchochan are lofty hills, near 3000 feet high, but far overtopped by Benlomond, in the parish of Buchanan, which, with its pyramidal maits, terminates the prospect to the west.

The great line of the Grampian mountains, which extends from N. E. to S. W. from the Girdlenefs in Aberdeenshire, to the hill of Ardmore, on the Frith of Clyde, takes its course; in a very marked direction, through the lower part of the parish of Aberfoyle. The course of this range of hills, as far as has been observed in this neighbourhood, is distinguished by a singular arrangement of the minerals of which the rocks consist. On the eastern side of this line of mountain, the rock consists of rounded or oval pebbles, from the size of a pigeon's egg, to masses of 9 or 10 inches in diameter, which contain in them much iron ore, and which seem, at some period, to have been loose and detached. They are now, however, strongly cemented into the body of the rock by a substance of a calcareous nature. Adjoining to this, on the west, are found, from time to time, masses of limestone, disposed in *nefts*, as the workmen term it, and not in strata of a regular dip; and no where, in this neighbourhood, is limestone found, except in this line of the Grampian Mountains, and uniformly on the west side of the rock. The limestone is blue, with beautiful veins of white. It admits of a fine polish, and has been made into chimney-pieces, which
approach

approach the beauty of marble. It is used for manure; but, as the access is difficult, the use of it is principally confined to the tenants of the Duke of Montrose, the proprietor. The western side of this range of mountains, after the intervention of immense masses of granite, consists of slate, of good quality, which is wrought whenever there is a demand for it. The want of water-carriage, however, and the distance of a market, render the consumpt very inconsiderable.

Before we quit the account of the general aspect of this district, it may be observed, that it is one of those which may furnish the naturalist with a proper field for decisive conclusions with regard to the original structure, and the subsequent changes of our terrestrial globe. A lengthened track of country, bounded on every side by lofty mountains, traversed through its whole length by a river, now become considerable by the accession of numberless streams, and which, after losing itself, from time to time, in extensive lakes, at length bursts out by a narrow passage into a great plain, seems to promise a fair exhibition of the real effects that are to be attributed to *running water*, that universal agent, as some modern philosophers account it, in changing the superficial aspect of our earth.

In contemplating this, and similar scenes which occur every where in the Highlands, one cannot help observing, that, had the great excavations between the mountains been occasioned by the gradual attrition of the running waters, the effects produced must have been much more considerable, than the formation of a few scanty spots of fertile soil in the subjacent valleys. Here, too, the pointed argument of De Luc must occur with great force, that the filling up of the intervening lakes must have been one of the earliest effects of the copious deposit from the mountains. In all these lakes the current is altogether imperceptible. In them, therefore, the
sediment

sediment must have first subsided; yet it is not observed that the lapse of ages diminishes either their depth or their extent.

The truth seems to be, that the effects to be attributed to *running water*, in changing the aspect of a country, have always been proportionably small, and that they necessarily become every day more inconsiderable. In the first ages of the world, indeed, whilst the earth was yet recent, the adhesion of its parts, not yet cemented by the continued operation of gravity, must have been less than at present; and even the tenacity which the earth might have acquired, must have been greatly impaired by the event of the general deluge. In the more early periods, therefore, there is room to believe that the revolutions on the surface of our globe must have been more numerous, and more considerable than they now are.

An appearance occurs in the eastern extremity of the parish, at the farm of Nether Donnans, which seems to coincide with this observation. It consists of a great number of regular ridges or mounds, formed of beds of gravel and sand, and covered with a green sward of fine grass. They are from 3 to 7, and even 10 feet high, broad at the base, and narrowing gradually to the top. They run sometimes in a parallel direction, and sometimes diverge at various angles, for the length of 200 or 300 yards. The whole has, at first sight, the appearance of a Roman encampment, and has by some been determined to have been one. But it is undoubtedly a *Lufus Naturae*, formed probably by the river Forth, before it had scooped out its present channel to itself; and which, though its course be now at some distance from this spot, and its bed considerably lower, seems to have ranged over this and many of the adjacent fields, before it had obtained for itself a free passage into the plain below.

The

The channels of the river having now, however, been determined by the lapse of time, and even, in some instances, fixed down by the hand of man, these changes have at length become less frequent, and less remarkable. The accessions of soil from the mountains have been gradually diminished by the consolidation of their strata. The streamlets that run down from the hills have hollowed out a regular channel for themselves. In tracing their progress, we find that their effects are perceptible only as they approach the valleys; whereas, towards their sources, near the summit of the mountains, these are reduced almost to nothing.

Rare Plants.—There are few districts, perhaps, of the same extent, which present such a fertile field to the botanist as Aberfoyle. Besides the vegetables common to the lower grounds, many of the rarer Alpine plants are to be found upon the mountains. Nor are the natives ignorant of the medical uses of many of their vegetables. A decoction of the *lichen pulmonarius* is applied externally, with success, to the cure of inflammations in the throat. The roots of the *Angelica* and *meum* are used as aromatics. The *tussilago* is used in pulmonary complaints. The roots of the *orobus tuberosus*, which abounds, are held in high esteem; and it is imagined that their juice invigorates, and enables to resist hunger for a long time. To avoid prolixity, a list of some of the rarer plants is subjoined in a note *.

The

* *Circaea lutetiana*.
Schoenus albus.
Montia.
Alchemilla alpina.
Sanicula Europaea.
Athamanta Meum.
Sifon inundatum.
Parnassia.

Allium ursinum.
Triglochin.
Alisma plantago.
Trientalis Europaea.
 Paris, (parish of Port.)
Vaccinium, 4 species.
Adoxa.
Pyrola rotundif. et longifol.
Andromeda

The native quadrupeds of this neighbourhood are roes, hares, foxes, badgers, martins, polecats, wild cats, otters, weazels, hedgehogs, moles, &c.

Birds.—The black eagle builds in some of the more inaccessible rocks; but, as great pains have been taken to destroy the species, it is now rare. The osprey, or water eagle, builds in an island of Lochlomond, in this neighbourhood, and pays us frequent visits. The falcon has her eyrie in many of our rocks. In winter, the lakes are covered with water-fowl; among whom swans, and some of the rarer species of *colymbi*, or *divers*, are annually to be met with. The woodcock appears in the end of September, or beginning of October, according to the rigorousness or mildness of the season, and generally disappears in February. The house-fallow appears on the 25th or 26th of April, and disappears about the beginning of October. The cuckoo is heard about the 28th of April. The ptarmigan (*tetrao lagopus*) is found in the higher regions of some of the hills, but in great abundance on Benlomond. The muirs abound with black and red

Andromeda polifolia.
Arbutus uva urfi
Saxifraga, var. spec.
Sedum Telephium, rubens.
Agrimonia Eupatoria.
Rubus chamaemorus.
Geum urbanum et rivale.
Comarum.
Nymphaea lutea et alba.
Trollius Europaeus.
Chenopodium vulgare.
Scutellaria galericulata.
Malva moschata.
Orobis tuberosus.
Hypericum Androsæum
et alia.

Gnaphalium dioicum.
Solidago, virga aurea.
Lobelia Dortmanna.
Orchis, var. spec.
Serapias longifolia.
Sparganium, 2 spec.
Littorella lacustris.
Empetrum nigrum.
Myrica Gale.
Populus alba et tremula.
Mercurialis annua.
Osmunda regalis, &c.
Asplenium capillus veneris.
Lycopodium clavatum et selago.

red game, the lower grounds with partridges and snipes. Wild pigeons are also frequent. The wood-pecker is sometimes seen, but rarely.

Soil and Climate.—The soil, having been formed, for the most part, by the sediment deposited by the streams descending from the mountains, is light and quick. It is generally remarked, that the harvest is earlier in Aberfoyle than any where in the vicinity towards the south, where the flat country begins.

The air is sharp and healthy. This neighbourhood is seldom visited by any epidemical disorders. Fevers are the most frequent diseases; they are to be attributed to the natives being much exposed to getting wet, in a climate where, from the mountainous nature of the country, rains are frequent.

Population.—About the year 1770, almost all the upper part of this parish was converted into sheep farms, for which the nature of the soil is peculiarly adapted. Since that period, the population of this parish has been, no doubt, considerably diminished, but in what proportion, it is not now easy to ascertain.

With regard to the first of the following tables, exhibiting the present population of the parish, it is to be observed, that it was made up with all possible accuracy in 1790. Within these two years, however, several families of cottagers have emigrated to Balfron, a thriving village about 8 miles distant, where a cotton manufactory is carried on upon an extensive scale.

With regard to the second table of marriages, births, and deaths, several difficulties have occurred, some of which it is now impossible altogether to obviate.

As

As to the births, notwithstanding every attention of the session, parents too frequently neglect the registration of their children's names, especially when they die in early infancy. Besides, there are a few families of Nonjurants in the parish, who never enter their births in the register. To render the average just, therefore, the sum of 5 or 6 may be annually added to the births.

With regard to the marriages, it is believed that the table is sufficiently accurate.

As to the deaths, a difficulty almost insurmountable occurs. It has been an immemorial custom to use the mortcloth or pall only for persons above 10 years of age; and those burials alone are recorded, as they produce a tax to the poor. Paupers, too, being exempted from this tax, are not enrolled in the register of burials.

An attempt has been made to supply these deficiencies in the register by calculation. Of children born, it is generally allowed that more than one half die before the age of 10 years. In order, however, to be within bounds, and making allowance for the healthiness of the climate, the deaths under 10 have been stated only at one half of the children born.

For the unregistered deaths of paupers, the annual average of 2 has been taken, as approaching nearly to the truth.

Present State of Population.

		<i>Males.</i>	<i>Fem.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Under 10	-	92	89	181
From 10 to 20	-	69	86	155
20 to 50	-	136	197	333
50 to 70	-	53	53	106
70 to 100	-	9	6	15
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		359	431	790

The return to Dr Webster in 1755 was 895 souls.

Marriages, Births, and Deaths, for 22 Years.

<i>Years.</i>		<i>Marriages.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
1771	-	3	22	7
1772	-	3	21	17
1773	-	2	29	3
1774	-	3	17	7
1775	-	10	21	2
1776	-	5	35	7
1777	-	4	27	3
1778	-	0	27	6
1779	-	6	19	3
1780	-	8	21	7
1781	-	9	21	3
1782	-	2	29	3
1783	-	7	32	5
1784	-	3	24	5
1785	-	3	26	5
1786	-	5	20	2
1787	-	7	21	5
1788	-	6	21	5
1789	-	6	17	3
1790	-	6	14	6
1791	-	3	16	4
1792	-	8	16	9
	Total	109	497	117

Averages.

1st, Births recorded	-	497
Add 5 annually	-	110
Total		607
Average of 22 years	=	27

2d, Deaths recorded	-	-	117
—— under 10, by calculation			303
—— of paupers, annually 2			44
			<hr/>
	Total		464
Average of 22 years	-		21

3d, For the average of Marriages, the sum of 5 annually may be assumed *.

All the inhabitants of Aberfoyle consist of farmers, or tacksmen, (whose number is about 38), a few subtenants, shepherds, cottagers, and handicraftsmen, with their respective families. Of handicraftsmen, viz. smiths, taylors, shoemakers, weavers, masons, and carpenters, the number is about 16.

The number of inhabited houses is 157, which, at the common calculation of 5 persons to every family, corresponds very nearly with the actual population of the parish.

From the above tables may be seen the annual proportion between the births, marriages, and deaths, and the whole population of the parish. The produce of every marriage appears, at a medium, to be nearly 6.

All the inhabitants are of the established Church, excepting 5 or 6 families, who are Nonjurants, and adhere to the Episcopalian form of worship. There are 2 poor persons from the remote Highlands who profess the Roman Catholic faith. The Secession is altogether unknown.

The

* The inhabitants of this parish generally arrive at a good old age. There are now living 7 or 8 persons above 80. In January 1793, a man died at the age of 97; and the gravedigger of the parish, whose age is 101, is still alive, and, till within these few weeks, has been able to perform his office regularly.

The people are, in general, sober, industrious, and courteous to strangers. They are contented with their condition, and firmly attached to Government. It is but justice to add, that, in the late ferment which prevailed in some parts of the country, they continued to express an uniform abhorrence of all seditious and levelling principles.

Productions.—The arable ground in Aberfoyle bears but an inconsiderable proportion to that which is employed in pasture. Of this proportion, however, no precise estimate can now be offered. The fields are employed in raising oats, barley, pease, potatoes, and flax. Pease are not much cultivated, on account of the wetness of the climate. Of potatoes and flax, only so much is raised as is sufficient for immediate use. The hills are altogether occupied in the pasture of sheep, goats having been proscribed, on account of the injury they do to the woods. Black cattle, of a small breed, are reared with advantage on the lower grounds.

It may be observed in general, that the upper part of the parish, which occupies by far the greatest superficial extent, consists of sheep farms; and the lower part, of cultivated grounds. The possessors of the sheep farms seldom raise so much grain as is sufficient for themselves, and for their shepherds. The farmers in the lower district generally raise a little more than is sufficient for their own consumpt. The leases on the sheep farms are given for 9 years; those on the grain farms for 18 years.

The cultivation of sown grasses can scarcely be said to have been yet introduced amongst us, a few of the more industrious tenants only laying down an acre or two, for the benefit of their milch cows. The culture of field turnip is almost unknown, though practised successfully by Mr Graham of Gartmore, at the distance of two miles only.

Next

Next to the breeding of sheep, the most advantageous mode of farming is the wintering of black cattle, for which many farms in this parish are peculiarly adapted, by the shelter which the woods afford against the inclemencies of the weather. When the snows cover the ground, the cattle are fed with hay of the natural grass produced on the bogs, and cut down in August. The cattle are bought in at from 2 l. 10 s. to 3 l. 15 s. in November, and sold in May, to be fattened for the butcher. The average profit has, for some years past, been from 18 s. to 20 s.

Wool, too, is a considerable article of commerce; it is sold from 5 s. to 9 s. or 10 s. *per* stone. The farmer is also assisted in making up his rent by the sale of butter and cheese.

In enumerating the productions of Aberfoyle, its extensive and valuable woods, consisting principally of oak, must not be omitted. The whole woods of this parish (including about a 24th part on the outskirts of the neighbouring parish) are divided into 24 lots or parcels, one of which is annually sold, and cut down; so that, in 24 years, the whole woods are cut down, and the same rotation again ready to commence. By the present regulation, the purchaser is obliged to leave for standards, 400 trees of 24 years growth, 8 of 48 years, and 8 of 72 years. From the distance of market, the timber brings little price; it is generally supposed that it pays the expence of cutting, and stripping off the bark. The bark itself sells, at present, at 1 s. 6 d. *per* stone. It is driven to water-carriage at Stirling.

Proprietor and Rent.—The property of this parish was anciently vested in the Grahams, Earl of Monteith; but, on the failure of heirs-male of that family about the end of the last century, their estate came to the family of Montrose. The Duke of Montrose is now sole heritor in this parish,
being

being at the same time patron, proprietor, and superior, excepting that a single farm (Drumlane) holds blench of the Duke of Argyle.

No estimate can now be given of the land rent of the parish. Some of the sheep farms rent as high as 70 l. 80 l. and even 150 l. The medium rent of the grain farms is about 20 l. or 30 l. The valuation of the whole parish is 1960 l. 6s. 8d. Scotch.

About the beginning of this century, it became necessary to station a company of soldiers at Inverfnaid, in the parish of Buchanan, in order to suppress the depredations of freebooters, who then infested this neighbourhood. Proper barracks were built for them, and a very tolerable road carried through the whole length of this parish, by which alone Inverfnaid is accessible. Several bridges have been thrown over the torrents, by the judicious application of the vacant stipend which has fallen from time to time; and the roads are still improving under the attention of the Duke of Montrose's factor, who, with great propriety, has lately converted the statute labour into money.

Poor and Schools.—The number of poor at present in the parish roll is about 24. Of these, not above 4 or 5 are about as common beggars. The rest are able, in some measure, to contribute to their own subsistence, and receive, from time to time, some aid from the parish funds, which, at an average, amount to 22 l. annually. They consist of the following particulars, viz.

Annual collections in the church	-	L. 10
Tax for the use of the mort-cloch	-	5*
Proclamations and fines	-	3
		There

* N. B. The church-yard of Aberfoyle is the usual burying-place for many of the inhabitants of Port, Drymen, and Buchanan.

There is, besides, the interest of 70 l. Sterling, lodged in the bank, on behalf of the poor; 50 l. of which sum were bequeathed to this parish by the late Duke of Montrose.

Besides the parochial school, there are two schools on the foundation of the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge; the one for teaching reading, writing, and arithmetic; and the other for learning girls to knit and sew. In the parochial school, the rudiments of the Latin tongue are taught. The number of youth who attend each of the reading schools is, at an average, between 30 and 40 *.

Fuel.—The common fuel of this country is peat, which is sufficiently abundant, but precariously obtained in this rainy climate. Of wood also, there is a considerable supply; but coals are not to be had nearer than Bannockburn, at the distance of 22 miles.

This great distance of coal, it will easily occur, must ever
prove

* Within these few years, the wages of common servants have increased, and are still increasing, in a very rapid proportion, from the great encouragement given to labourers of all ages and sexes at the flourishing manufactures of Balfron and Bonhill, which lie at no great distance.

The wages usually given at present, (A. D. 1793) in this neighbourhood, are as follows:

To men servants, by the year, from 8 l. to 12 l. Sterling.

To maid servants, by ditto, from 3 l. to 4 l. 10 s.

To a day-labourer in husbandry, from 10 d. to 1 s. *per day*.

To a carpenter, 10 d.

To a mason, 1 s.

To a taylor, 8 d.

In all these instances, the above wages are given besides victuals.

Of all such articles of provision as are produced and sold on the spot, the prices, at a medium, are as follows:

Butter,	-	11 s. <i>per stone</i> .
Cheese,	-	5 s. <i>per ditto</i> .
Barley,	-	16 s. <i>per boll</i> .
Oats,	-	16 s. <i>per ditto</i> .
Oat-meal,	-	15 s. <i>per ditto</i> .

prove an insuperable bar to the introduction of any considerable manufactures in this neighbourhood : nor can this natural disadvantage be removed, except by rendering the Upper Forth navigable for small vessels ; and this seems to be an object which might be accomplished at no great expence. The fall of the river, in its whole course from the eastern extremity of this parish, through the great moss, to Stirling, is very inconsiderable ; and the ground, consisting almost wholly of moss and clay, is easily wrought. It is well known, that, about 30 years ago, this very undertaking was agitated, and a particular estimate of the work, and of its expence, made out by Messrs Golborne and Watt, under the direction of the late Lord Cathcart, then President of the Board of Police. But that scheme, which promised so fairly for the mutual advantage of the Highlands and low country, was, on some account or other, unfortunately abandoned. It is to be hoped, that, in this age of public spirit and improvements, the great proprietors in the neighbourhood will be yet induced to procure the benefits of an inland navigation to a country which the cheapness of living, the abundance of running water, and of wood fitted for every kind of machinery, seem to point out as a proper seat for cotton-works and bleachfields. Add to these natural advantages of this neighbourhood, its inexhaustible rocks of slate, which, if water-carriage could be obtained, would be alone sufficient to supply the consumpt of the populous countries adjacent to the banks of the Forth, from its source to the sea. Here, it would seem, that, in such an event, a woollen manufacture might be advantageously established. Situated in the very opening of the Highlands, the wool of the western districts of Perthshire, and the adjacent parts of Argyleshire, would find a market of easy access ; and the proprietors and occupiers of sheep farms might be induced to pay that attention

tion to the improvement of this staple of our country which it merits.

Miscellaneous Observations.—In antient times, the Gaelic language alone was spoken in this parish; and, even in the memory of man, it extended many miles farther down the country than it now does. The limits of this antient tongue, however, are daily narrowed here as every where else, by the increasing intercourse with the low country. At present, every body understands English, though the Gaelic is chiefly in use. The service in church is performed in English in the forenoon, and in Gaelic in the afternoon.

The stipend is 62 l. 10 s. in money, together with a chalders of barley, and a chalders of oat-meal. The glebe consists of above 15 Scotch acres of ground of good quality, partly arable, and partly meadow. The manse is a commodious building, and in good repair. The church is a sorry edifice; but is about to receive some repairs, which, it is hoped, will render it a decent place of worship.

The antiquities of this parish are neither numerous nor important. On a rising ground, in the neighbourhood of the manse, and facing the south, there is a circle of stones, which there is room to believe to be a relic of Druidism. It consists of 10 large stones, placed circularly, with a larger one in the middle. They seem to have stood originally on one end, but have now fallen, and are partly sunk into the earth. From this circumstance, it seems to be, that the Highlanders, when speaking of the kirk of Aberfoyle, uniformly make use of the term *Clachan*, i. e. the circle of stones; and the same term is used when speaking of many other places of worship, both in the Highlands and in the low country, places where it is probable that such circles did, or do still, exist.

In a very small island in Lochard, are still to be seen the ruins of a castle, reported by universal tradition to have been built by the the Duke of Albany, uncle to James I. of Scotland. He is said to have intended it for a retreat, almost inaccessible by its situation, when he was under apprehensions of being prosecuted on account of his ambitious designs.

NUM.

NUMBER IX.

PARISH OF CULROSS.

(*Synod of Fife.—Presbytery of Dunfermline.—County of Perth.*)

By the Reverend Messrs ROBERT ROLLAND and WALTER M'ALPINE.

Name, Extent, &c.

THE proper name Culrofs, which equally belongs to the town and parish, is evidently of Gaelic origin, and is compounded of two words, viz. Cul and Rofs; the first, *Cul*, signifying back, or, more properly, what is expressed by *Clunis* in Latin; and *Rofs*, a peninsula; the peninsula here referred to, being the whole district between the Friths of Tay and Forth, and which formerly went under the general name of *Rofs*. The parish lies along the N. shore of the Frith of Forth. The barony of Kincardine, contiguous thereto on the W. formerly belonged to it, but was disjoined in the year 1672, and united to Tulliallan. The extent of the parish is 4 miles from E. to W. and about the same from N. to S. making nearly a regular square, and containing 8145 acres, Scotch measure. Of these, nearly one third to the N. and W. consist chiefly of marsh and muir, hardly capable of any other improvement than that of planting, to which a considerable part have already been applied, and with much success, by the several proprietors; in particular,

particular, a very extensive plantation, begun in the year 1752 by the late Earl of Dundonald, and considerably enlarged by the present Earl, comprehending 800 Scotch acres, in a very thriving condition. The N. E. part of the parish, though mostly arable, is, in general, poor and barren. Towards the middle and S. the soil is either of a rich clay or dark loam, extremely fertile, and capable of the highest cultivation. Till of late, very little wheat was raised in the parish, and hardly any sown grass, except by a few of the gentlemen; but now the tenant, in common with the proprietor, begins to adopt the most approved rotations and modes of culture; such as wheat after fallow, with lime or dung; after this, drilled pease or beans; then barley, with grass seeds. Again, if the soil is naturally rich, and in good heart, wheat, after one crop of grass; but, if otherwise, it is allowed to remain in pasture from 3 to 4 or 5 years, when it is broken up for oats, to which a fallow or green crop succeeds. As a proof how much the culture of wheat gains ground, one farmer, in 1790, had upwards of 30 acres in wheat; but the present state of the cultivation of the parish will best appear by the statistical table.

Manures, Ploughs, and Rent.—The manures used are lime, dung, and the refuse of tan pits. The former is brought from Lord Elgin's limeworks, distant, at a medium, 6 miles. The plough which is now most generally in use is the light English plough, upon the improved plan of Mr Clarke of Newcastle, executed by Mr Small of Blackadder-Mount, with side and mould board of cast iron, drawn by two horses, and managed by one man, without a driver. Best croft land near the town pays 48 s. *per* acre, in small parcels of 2, 3, or 4 acres. Best land in the parish, when let out in large farms, pays 30 s. *per* acre, and thence declining to 20 s.

15 s. and 10 s. according to the quality, fituation, and improvement of the ground.

Statistical Table.

For crop 1791.			Farmers above 50 l. <i>per</i>		
Acres in wheat	-	181	<i>annum</i>	-	17
----- barley	-	280	Ditto under 50 l.	-	18
----- oats *	-	799	Valued rent, Scotch		
----- pease & beans	168½		L. 3623 : 18 : 3		
----- potatoes	-	67	Real rent, Sterling, a-		
----- turnips	-	11	bout	-	L. 3000
----- flax	-	22	Population in 1755	-	1695
----- sown grafs	-	552	----- in 1791	-	1442
----- fallow	-	169	Males	-	655
----- gardens and			Females	-	787
orchards	-	70	In the country	-	373
----- arable land in			In the town, and in the		
pasture	-	939	villages of Blairburn		
Total arable land, acres	3308½		and Laigh Valley-		
Plantations, ditto	-	1101	field, adjacent thereto	1069	
Preparing for planting,			Houfes in the country	72	
ditto	-	200	----- in the town		
Natural wood, ditto	100		and fuburbs	-	203
Ploughs	-	59	Married men and wo-		
Horfes	-	164	men	-	505
Black cattle	-	590	Unmarried men above		
Sheep	-	350	50	-	12
			Unmarried		

* Late oats are now given up by the judicious farmer, and the early fort almost univerfally fubftituted in their ftead, particularly the Blainsley, which feems peculiarly adapted to the foil of the parifh.

Unmarried women above		Scholars at the parochial	
40 - - -	49	school, viz.	
Widowers - -	29	Learning Latin, at 2 s.	
Widows - -	77	6 d. <i>per</i> quarter -	4
Under 10 - -	249	—— arithmetic at	
From 10 to 20 -	291	ditto - -	20
From 20 to 50 -	627	—— English at 1 s.	
From 50 to 80 -	248	6 d. <i>per</i> ditto -	52
From 80 to 90 -	23	Total - - -	76
Above 90 - -	4	Income of the school-	
Shoemakers - -	21	master, exclusive of	
Tanner - -	1	fees - L. 18 : 7 : 6 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Weavers - -	72	Scholars at the private	
Tailors - -	9	schools - -	48
Carpenters and wrights	17	In 1788, marriages -	12
Masons - -	16	—— births, males	26
Bakers - -	7	—— females	24
Smiths - -	6	—— deaths -	16
Butchers - -	3	In 1789, marriages -	11
Brewer - -	1	—— births, males †	25
Licensed alehouses -	11	—— females	18
Schoolmaster, parochial	1	—— deaths -	20
Ditto, private *	2	In 1790, marriages -	14
		In	

* Besides these, a well accomplished female (Miss Farquharson) teaches, with success, English, French, writing, (an uncommonly fine hand), arithmetic, geography, and needle-work. She has 7 boarders, at 20 l. each *per annum*; and 5 day-scholars, at 10 s. 6 d. *per* quarter.

† The diminution of births in 1789 is to be attributed to a number of colliers having left the place, by a stop being put to the coalworks; and the increase of deaths in 1790, to the ravages of the small pox. The practice of inoculation now begins to take place among all ranks in this parish and neighbourhood.

In 1790, births, males	20	8, employed in huf-		
----- females	30	bandry)	-	97
----- deaths	24	Maid fervants	-	100
Man fervants (all, except		Day-labourers	-	45*

Heritors, &c.—There are 10 heritors in the parifh, of whom no one poffeffes more than 600 l. land rent ; the loweft about 60 l. ; and, from this to the higheft, running from 200 l. to 300 l. and 400 l. ; fo that, upon the whole, property is more equally divided here than in moft parifhes. All the heritors, except one, refide in the parifh, moft of them upon their own eftates, to the improvement of which they have been attentive, in clearing, subdividing, inclofing, and planting them, and in fetting an example of good husbandry on the lands in their own poffeffion. In general, they are well accommodated with houfes, feveral of which are pleafantly fituated, efpecially thofe on the banks of the Forth.

Valleyfield,

* Wages of an ordinary plowman, 5 l. *per annum*, with 2 pecks, or 16 lib. oat-meal, and 4 d. money *per week*, board wages.

Wages of a complete plowman, 7 l. *per annum*, with 2 pecks oat-meal, (weighing 16 lib.) and 6 d. *per week*.

Wages of a maid fervant *per annum*, from 2 l. to 3 l.

Wages of a day-labourer, from 9 d. to 1 s. (where constant work is afforded through the year) ; in winter, 9 d.

Ditto, for temporary employment, 10 d.

In fummer, 1 s.

Wages of reapers in harveft,—for a man, from 10 d. to 1 s. with breakfast and dinner.

For a woman, from 7 d. to 9 d. with the fame allowance of victuals.

A journeyman mafon, *per day*, from 1 s. 6 d. to 1 s. 8 d.

A houfe-carpenter, from 1 s. 2 d. to 1 s. 6 d.

Beef, mutton, and veal, fell from 3 d. to 4 d. *per lib.* Dutch ;—a good fowl, from 1 s. to 1 s. 2 d.—butter, 9 d. *per lib.* Tron ;—eggs, from 4 d. to 6 d. *per dozen* ;—meal, 11 d. or 1 s. *per peck*.

Valleyfield, the farthest east, belonging to Sir Charles Preston, is a modern, elegant, and commodious house. Next to that, on the west, is the Abbey of Culrofs, (so called from being situated in the neighbourhood of the old abbey or monastery), built by Edward Lord Bruce of Kinlofs. It has a magnificent front to the south, and a turret on each end, which, with the hanging gardens declining towards the Forth, give it a very noble appearance. The house, and grounds adjacent, came by marriage into the possession of the family of Dundonald, whose seat it now is. Adjacent to the Abbey is the church; and, immediately below this last, stands the town of Culrofs, one street of which is built upon the declivity of a steep hill, running directly north from the sea; the rest runs along the shore, at right angles therewith. Almost every house has a garden with fruit-trees belonging to it. The town altogether, especially in the approach from the harbour, has a very picturesque and magnificent appearance. The town was erected into a royal borough in the year 1588, having its charter from James VI. in the 22d of his reign, and in conjunction with Stirling, Dunfermline, Innerkeithing, and South Queensferry, sends a representative to Parliament. The shore opposite to the town being flat, with sunk rocks interspersed, to a considerable depth, renders the access for ships of burthen incommodious; notwithstanding of which, however, when the great coalwork flourished here under Sir George Bruce, a very considerable trade was carried on, and different articles of foreign luxury distributed from this to the neighbouring towns, even as far as Perth. At present, there is no foreign trade directly from the place; but there is a regular ferry every day to Borrowstonnefs, from which all the different articles of merchandize, are conveyed here at an easy expence. The spring-tides rise here from 15 to 16 feet. Further west, and upon the

the banks of the Forth, is Castlehill, antiently called *Dunne-marle Castle*, that is, in the Gaelic language, *the Castle by or near the sea*, from a fort or strong hold of the Macduffs, Thanes of Fife, said to be their utmost boundary to the westward. According to tradition, it was here that the cruel murder of Lady Macduff and her children, by order of Macbeth, forming an affecting incident in Shakspeare's tragedy of that name, was perpetrated. The castle is in ruins; but a finer situation for a house can hardly be imagined. Next to that, in the same direction westward, is Blaircastle, the seat of Robert Dundas, Esquire, a strong old house, said to have been built by Hamilton Archbishop of St Andrews, about the time of the Reformation.

Surface.—There are no mountains; but, in general, the land stands high, rising suddenly from the shore (which is a dead flat) to a considerable height, thence declining northwards by a gradual descent, till near the middle of the parish, from which again it rises to about the same height, and nearly by the same angle as upon the south side, thus running from E. to W. in two inclined planes, somewhat in the form of a book when opened. Through the intermediate channel or bottom, runs a small stream, called the Bluther, which, uniting with another, called the Grange, falls into the sea at Newmill-bridge, forming the eastmost boundary of the parish and county. These serve to drive two corn-mills, from which the parish is supplied with meal. One of these being seldom deficient in water, and completely fitted up for making flour, pot barley, &c. cargoes of wheat are frequently brought to it from Dunfermline, Borrowstounness, and other places, to be ground, which renders it not only a valuable possession to the proprietor, but a public benefit to the neighbourhood. These streams might perhaps be rendered

still more valuable, by their application to other manufactures.

Population, &c.—From the number of aged in the table, in proportion to that of the whole inhabitants, and by comparing the births with the deaths, it will appear, that the people are, in general, healthy; nor is there any disease that can be called epidemical in the place, though it has been remarked, that, within a given period, more have been carried off by consumptions than by any other disease. For the decrease of population from 1755 to 1791, the following causes may be assigned:

1st, In the country part of the parish, many of the gentlemen having taken a larger proportion of land into their own management, either with a view to improvement, or for their own accommodation, but chiefly the former. 2^{dly}, The use of the two horse ploughs having prevailed of late almost universally, by which a driver to each plough is saved. 3^{dly}, The improvements which have taken place in husbandry, especially a more proper rotation of crops, and consequently a more judicious distribution of labour between the different seasons, by which one plough, and one man, can be made to execute as much work, and to much better purpose, than formerly could have been done by two ploughs, and four men. 4^{thly}, (Partly in consequence of the above) Gentlemen being accustomed to let out their lands in larger farms than formerly, by which means they have not only better security for their rents, but the lands likewise kept in better heart and order, being let to more substantial tenants. These causes account for the diminution of population in the country part of the parish. The following are assigned for the decrease in the town: 1st, The loss or decay of several branches of manufacture formerly carried on there, particularly

larly girdlemaking* and shoemaking; the former is now supplanted by the Carron-work; the latter was first checked by the last American war, which put a stop for a while to the export trade, and, by this discouragement, has gradually fallen into decay. 2dly, A prejudice, arising from the above, that, where one or two branches of business have failed, no other can succeed; hence young men of activity, after finishing their education, never think of settling at home, but look abroad to some other place for employment. And, 3dly, The flourishing state of manufactures, especially of late, in Dunfermline and Glasgow, and the numerous buildings and public works carrying on in Edinburgh, by which all the surplus hands have been drained off.

Ecclesiastical State.—There are two ministers in the parish, the charge being collegiate. The Earl of Dundonald patron. The stipend of the first minister consists of 60 bolls, Linlithgow measure, of victual, and 48 l. 17 s. money. But the victual being paid in small proportions, and in different kinds of grain, viz. barley, pease, and oats; and the money, consisting partly of feu-duties that formerly belonged to the Abbey of Culrofs, and collected in small sums from a variety of hands, render the stipend of less value; so that it may amount, *communibus annis*, to something less than 100 l. with a manse, glebe of 4 acres, and a small garden. This minister has besides, by the donation of private persons, three fourths of an acre of garden ground; but no ground for grass, nor any allowance for it. The second minister's stipend, by an augmentation obtained in May 1791, consists of 8 chalders victual, and 400 merks, Scotch money, and amounts, at a medium, to 112 l. or from that to 118 l. *per annum*. He has neither manse, glebe, nor garden, from the parish; but
has,

* *i. e.* iron girdles for baking.

has, by donation or subscription, an old house and small garden belonging to him, with the interest of 20 l. Sterling, which yield, one year with another, allowing for the repairs of the old house, 4 l. There is an allowance for communion elements of 100 merks Scotch, or 5 l. 11 s. $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. Sterling.

Poor, and Poor's Funds.—The poor within the parish amount in all to 67, of whom 14 are upon the weekly roll, having a regular allowance, and therefore may be considered as wholly dependent upon the public funds; but there are 53 who receive aid only occasionally, and are partly supported by their own labour, and other accidental supplies. There are no begging poor. The funds are, the interest of 500 l. lent out at 5 *per cent.* which stock has arisen from voluntary donations made to the poor by different persons at different times, and the savings of public collections formerly made;—the weekly collections at the church doors;—in times of scarcity or dearth, the heritors have voluntarily assessed themselves to supply the extraordinary demands of the poor;—and a proposal was lately made and agreed to, that such heritors as did not reside, or were of a different communion from the established Church, or did not attend the church regularly, should send a certain proportion weekly for the support of the poor; a mean of supporting the poor equally proper and just, especially in country parishes. Besides what are properly called the parish funds, there are the following hospitals and charitable foundations belonging to the place, or in which it has an interest. In 1637, Thomas Earl of Elgin, son of Lord Bruce of Kinloss, founded and endowed an hospital in the E. part of the town, for the maintainance of 12 aged persons of the borough and parish of Culross, to be presented by him and his male successors, and commissioners appointed for that effect, reserving power to him and his heirs

heirs to nominate others, though not of the parish of Culrofs, In 1639, George Bruce of Carnock founded and endowed an hospital in the W. part of the town, for the maintainance of 6 decayed poor and aged women, widows of colliers or salters, or of that kind, some time workers in Culrofs or Kincardine; and, if these be deficient, to other decayed poor and aged widow women in the parish of Culrofs. They had a house and garden for their accommodation, and 24 bolls of meal for their support. Robert Bill, M. D. who was born at Culrofs, and resided in London, mortified the sum of 600 l. Sterling; the interest to be applied to the relief of four decayed tradesmen, and two decayed tradesmen's widows, the education and putting to apprenticeship some young persons of the borough of Culrofs, also the maintainance of a burfar or scholar at the University; he died at London in 1738; the trustees are, the ministers, magistrates, dean of guild, and schoolmaster.

Manufactures.—There is no manufacture of any note at present established in the parish, many of the weavers who reside in it being employed in working diapers for dealers in Dunfermline, or cotton cloths for those in Glasgow; but there was formerly a species of manufacture in some measure peculiar, if not altogether confined, to the place, from 30 to 40 hands having been usually engaged in it. This branch was that of making of girdles, a kitchen utensil well known in Scotland for toasting unleavened bread. By two royal grants, one of James VI. and the other of Charles II. ratified in Parliament in the year 1669, the girdlesmiths of Culrofs had the sole and exclusive privilege of making girdles, which were invented by them; but, in the year 1727, the Court of Session found that no monopolies of this kind could be granted, in prejudice of any royal borough. The decline of that manufacture

facture in Culrofs, which has now dwindled almoſt to nothing, is, however, not ſo much to be aſcribed to the loſs of the patent, as to the cheaper mode of making girdles by the Carron Company from the power of machinery, the more frequent and general uſe of ovens, together with the preference now pretty generally given to wheat bread in every part of the country. Under this article of manufactures, it may be proper to mention the new and ingenious method of extracting tar from coal, now commonly known by the name of *British tar*, and which was firſt practiſed at Culrofs by the preſent Earl of Dundonald; but of this and the other diſcoveries made by his Lordſhip in practical chemiſtry, and in different branches of natural philoſophy, it is to be hoped a particular and ſatisfactory account will be given to the world by his Lordſhip's own hand.

Fiſheries.—There are but few fiſh caught upon what are ſtrictly called the ſhores of Culrofs; but on thoſe of Kincardine, which formerly belonged to Culrofs, large quantities, to a conſiderable value, are ſometimes caught, eſpecially herrings, and a ſmall but delicate fiſh, called *garvies*. They are taken by a kind of fiſh trap, called a *cruive*, made of wicker work, and compoſed of three different parts; firſt, a large baſket, of an oval form, (more ſtrictly called the *cruive*), from 9 to 10 feet in length, and open at both ends, but conſiderably wider at one end than the other; the wider end meaſuring at the mouth 7 feet in diameter, and the baſket tapering gradually down to the ſmaller end, whoſe aperture is not more than 4 feet. To this ſucceeds what, in the dialect of the fiſhers, is called the *bung*, a leſſer baſket, nearly of the ſame form with the *cruive*, likewise open at both ends; and the laſt is the *weal*, about $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet long. The ſmaller end of the *cruive* is inſerted into the mouth of the *bung*, and the ſmall aperture

aperture of the bung into that of the weal; the end of the weal which is left out being entirely closed. Thus joined together, they are placed upon their sides, at a convenient distance from the shore, where, during the spring tide, they are wholly overflowed at high water, and left dry at ebb, the mouth of the cruive pointing directly up the river; by which means the fish that came up with the flood, returning again with the ebb, run into the cruive, from thence through the bung into the weal, where, not being able to recover their way into the water, they are caught by the fishers when the tide is fully out. One of these cruives will sometimes yield, of herrings and garvies in a season, to the value of 61 81. and, in an extraordinary good year, even 10 l. There are at Kincardine, 4 miles west from Culrofs, 61 cruives; at Langanat, a mile and a half nearer Culrofs, 83; and at another new station midway between these, nicknamed by the fishers *Botany Bay*, 35. In lucky seasons, such as was the year 1783, it was computed, that betwixt Kincardine and Langannet, there were caught of fish to the value of 1000 l. and upwards. The cruive-fishing season is from the month of August till the beginning of March. In the darkness and gloom of winter, and even amidst all the horrors of the tempest, the fishing of the cruives exhibits a very gay and enlivening scene; men and women of all ages, and in different companies, resorting to them, and carrying lamps of flaming charcoal, which are seen at a distance through the dark, moving in all directions, accompanied with the mixed cries of emulation, merriment, and hope. The cruives belonged originally to the Abbot of Culrofs; but, after the Reformation, were parcelled out among the several proprietors who succeeded to the church lands.

Metals, Minerals, and Fossils.—In the parish is great abundance

dance of freestone, of an excellent quality, considerable quantities of ironstone and some ochre ; and, by the ingenuity of the Earl of Dundonald, there have lately been discovered in the crofts of Culrofs, adjoining to the town, extensive and deep beds of a very valuable clay, equal, if not superior in quality, for pottery and glashouse purposes, to that which is brought from Stourbridge, in Worcesterfhire.

Formerly, the coalworks of Culrofs were the most considerable in Scotland ; it being ordained by act of Parliament in 1663, that the Culrofs chalder should be the standard measure for Scotland ; and the number of salt-pans then in use amounted, as is asserted, to no less than 50. These works appear to have been in their most flourishing state in the reign of James VI. a little before, and some time after, his accession to the crown of England. They were then wrought a considerable way under the sea, or at least where the sea overflowed at full tide, and the coals were carried out to be shipped by a moat within the sea-mark, which had a subterraneous communication with the coal-pit *. One cause to which

* There is a tradition, that James VI. revisiting his native country, made an excursion into Fife ; and, resolving to take the diversion of hunting in the neighbourhood of Dunfermline, invited the company then attending him to dine along with him at a collier's house, meaning the Abbey of Culrofs, then belonging to Sir George Bruce. Being conducted, by his own desire, to see the works below ground, he was led insensibly by his host and guide to the moat above mentioned, it being then high water ; upon which, having ascended from the coal-pit, and seeing himself, without any previous intimation, surrounded by the sea, he was seized with an immediate apprehension of some plot against his liberty or life, and called out, Treason. But his faithful guide quickly dispelled his fears, by assuring him that he was in perfect safety ; and, pointing to an elegant pinnace that was made fast to the moat, desired to know whether it was most agreeable to his Majesty to be carried ashore in it, or to return by the same way he came ; upon which the King,

which the decline of these works *, once so flourishing, is ascribed, is a violent storm which happened the very night on which King James died, by which the moat, and different parts of the machinery, were either greatly damaged, or totally destroyed. From this shock, though they were afterwards wrought partially, they never entirely recovered, and were, for a time, wholly deserted. At present there is a temporary supply of coal procured from the croppings of the old works, and gleanings accidentally left. It is certain, however, that very rich seams of coal yet remain, especially on the lands of Valleyfield, belonging to Sir Charles Preston, under lease to the Earl of Dundonald, which, on account of the great depth at which they lie, cannot be wrought to any purpose without the expenditure of a considerable sum of money; yet, situated as they are, close to the shore, and so commodiously for exportation, this obstacle, we are in hopes, will be soon removed.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The public roads through the parish of Culrofs are, in general, very bad, the post road especially, which, being conducted too close to the shore, is thereby overflowed, at spring tides, to a great depth, rendering it at such times not only impassable, but to strangers extremely

King, preferring the shortest way back, was carried directly ashore, expressing much satisfaction at what he had seen. It is certain, that at that time the King was sumptuously entertained at the Abbey, some of the glasses, &c. then made use of in the desert being still preserved in the family; and the room where his Majesty was entertained still retains the name of the *King's room*.

* A curious account of these works may be seen in Taylor's *Pennylefs Pilgrimage*.

treribly dangerous. There is no prospect of having this defect remedied but by obtaining a turnpike act *.

The

* The Antiquities may be divided into Ecclesiastical and Military.

1st, *Ecclesiastical*.—At the east end of the town, on the sea coast, the high road only intervening, are the remains of a chapel, called *St Mungo's Chapel*, of which the tradition is, that it was on or near the place where St Mungo or Kentigern was born. He is said to have been the son of Eugenius III. King of the Scots, and of a daughter of Lothus King of the Picts. His mother Thametis finding herself with child, out of shame, and apprehension of her father's wrath, stole privately away; and, entering into a vessel that she found at the nearest coast, was, by the winds and waves, cast on land where the town of Culrofs is now situated, and there was delivered; and, leaving the child with a nurse, returned home. His parents being unknown, he was brought to Servanus, and baptized and brought up by him. This Servanus, or St Serf, lived at that time in an hermitage, where the monastery was afterwards built, and was, as is said, son of a King of Canaan. After various peregrinations, he departed this life at Culrofs, of which town he became the tutelar saint; and, in honour of him, a whole day annually was formerly solemnized by the people here. This was attended with a variety of ceremonies, particularly parading the streets and environs of the town very early in the morning, with large branches of birch and other trees in their foliage, accompanied with drums and different musical instruments, adorning the cross, and another public place called the *Tron*, with a great profusion and variety of flowers, formed into different devices, and spending the evening in festivity and mirth. The day appropriated to this was the 1st day of July; but, when the town was erected into a royal borough, another festive day was dedicated to what they call *riding the marches*; which is, the magistrates, counsellors, and different incorporations, proceeding on horseback, in a great cavalcade, and carrying several pairs of colours, round the boundaries of the town's domains, (which were formerly considerable); and, at a certain period of their progress, calling over the names of the magistrates and office-bearers, and burghesses, and so proceeding back again into the town, and concluding the day with feasting, music, and dancing. The King's birth-day made a third public day; and, as each

The people, in general, are tall, well proportioned, with good eyes, vivid complexions, and, upon the whole, very expressive

each of these usually drew along with it three or four more, sometimes a whole week, of dissipation and idleness, it was wisely contrived to sink them all into one, which is now the King's birth-day, still a great day at Culrofs. In this are united the ceremonies of all the three. To this all the young people, of both sexes, assiduously resort, even from the most distant quarters of the country; and, whilst the Saint himself is forgotten, and his name not so much as known to many of them, his ceremonies are still preserved, and his spirit continues to inspire them with social mirth and joy.

The monastery, which was founded in the year 1217 by Malcolm Thane of Fife, lies N. W. from St Mungo's, at the head of the town, on a rising ground, commanding a beautiful and extensive prospect of the Frith. Considerable remains of it are yet to be seen. On the north side was the Abbey Church, which had a tower or steeple in the middle, still entire, as is also a part of the church, now made use of for the parish church. The Abbey Church was dedicated not only to the Virgin Mary, but also to St Serf. At the Reformation, the rental of this Abbey amounted to 768l. 16s. 7d. Scotch, in money; 3 chalders, 3 bolls wheat; 14 chalders, 10 bolls, 2 firlots barley; 13 chalders, 12 bolls, 3 firlots, $3\frac{1}{2}$ pecks oats; 1 chalder, 2 bolls salt; 10 wedders, 22 lambs, 7 dozen of capons, $28\frac{1}{2}$ dozen poultry, $7\frac{1}{2}$ stone of butter; $79\frac{1}{2}$ stones of cheese, and 8 trusses of straw. At that time, there were nine monks, of the Cister-tian order, in the convent. About a quarter of a mile to the west of the Abbey Church are the ruins of the old church, which was, before the Reformation, the parish church, and which, with the church-yard around it, is still used as burial-ground.

2d, *Military Antiquities* — There are still to be seen the remains of two old camps, from their oval form evidently Danish, one in the N. W. quarter, near a place called Burrowan, which is said to be the station to which the Danes retreated after their defeat at the battle of Innerkeithing; the other a good way farther south, in the muir of Culrofs, was the station occupied by the Danes before the battle of Culrofs. The Praetorium is pretty entire, at least the trenches around it are very discernible. About an English mile farther east, are shown the traces of the camp of the Scotch King Duncan; and betwixt these, in the same line, and nearly at an equal distance from both, is the field

pressive countenances. They are not only decently cloathed, but many of them, such as the young trades people, genteelly dressed, even more so than is usual with persons of the same station elsewhere. Few are known to complain of wanting the necessaries of life ; none, indeed, who are able and willing to work, or who are not notorious spendthrifts. A general spirit of discontent has never been known to prevail among them, nor are any combinations formed, on account of oppression, bad usage, or want of subsistence, for leaving the country. In the country part of the parish, their manners are, in general, simple and virtuous, living in the habits of sobriety and industry ; and, though not many of them are rich, yet they are contented with their situation, enjoying the necessaries, and many of the comforts, of life. We are sorry we cannot give the same favourable report, at least without many exceptions, of those in the town. This is chiefly owing to the unhappy influence of borough politics, which, in a place like this, where the numbers are small, draw almost every individual tradesman to act a part in them, when a competition happens. which is often the case ; thus communicating the baneful habits of idleness, and a taste for luxury and dissipation. We have, however, the comfort to add, that there are but few instances of any atrocious crimes. For 20 years and upwards, there have been no murders committed, one or two child-murders excepted. None have suffered by the hand of the executioner, and only two by their own.

A

field of battle, which from Gib, the name of the King of Norway's son, who, according to tradition, was slain there, still retains the name of *Gib's Croft*. This battle, in which Banquo acted as general of the King's forces, Macbeth being absent making levies, was fought about the middle of the 11th century. For the issue and consequences of the battle, and the artifice by which the Danes are said to have been afterwards overthrown near Perth, vide Buchanan, lib. 7. cap. 5. & 6.

A proper regard to religion, and respect for its institutions, almost universally prevail. There is no place of worship but that of the established Church. The number of sectaries, chiefly Burgher and Antiburgher Seceders, does not exceed 50, and these show no symptoms of founels or bigotry, but, on the contrary, are exceedingly mild, civil, and obliging in their manner, living in perfect good neighbourhood with all around them, and are by no means the least industrious in the parish. The fashionable modes of free thinking are hardly known, and avowed by none, except by such, and these extremely few, as, from conscious vice and folly, account it their interest not to think at all.

P. S. By the late rapid extension and success of manufactures in the country, the spirit of industry, which seemed for a while to lie dormant, now begins to awaken; so that, from June 1791, when a particular investigation was gone into, with a view to this report, a considerable addition has been made to the number of looms in the parish; and two new branches of manufacture have been established in the town, viz. those of tambouring and flowering muslins. In the first, 38 young girls are already engaged, from 9 years old and upwards; and in the other 34. Those below 12 years old are bound for 3 years, and have, for the first year, 1 s. 6 d. *per* week allowed them; for the second year, 2 s.; and for the last, 3 s. Those above 12, and below 16, have 2 s. *per* week the first year, 2 s. 6 d. the second, and 3 s. the last; and such as are older, and bound for only two years, have 2 s. the first year, and 2 s. 6 d. the last. So that now, in proportion to the numbers in a family, provided they are soberly and industriously brought up, their affluence and comfort increase; and, indeed, a spirit of contentment and chearfulness is universally diffused among the people, and hardly a murmur to be heard.

NUM-

NUMBER X.

PARISH OF MORTON.

(*Presbytery of Penpont.—Synod and County of Dumfries.*)

By the Reverend Mr JOHN YORSTOUN.

Extent and Surface.

THE parish of Morton, lying on the E. side of the river Nith, 15 miles N. W. from the town of Dumfries, is about 6 miles in length, from S. W. to N. E. and $3\frac{1}{2}$ in breadth, from S. E. to N. W. On the S. and S. E. it is bounded by the Cample; on the north, by the Carron; and on the W. by the Nith. One farm, indeed, has been separated from the rest of the parish, by the Nith's changing its course, and now lies on the west side of that river. The parish consists of about 6340 Scotch acres, of which about 1800 are arable, 80 meadow, 4190 pasture, 180 moss, and 90 woods and plantations. Along the banks of the Nith and Cample, there are about 200 acres of good holm land. Adjoining to this is a considerable extent of gently rising ground, of a light but fertile soil, upon a gravelly bottom. The village of Thornhill is pleasantly situated upon the highest part of this ground. A little farther E. is a considerable ridge of land somewhat higher, the greater part of which is still in a state of nature, though very capable of cultivation, as so much of it as is improved turns to very good account. The soil is deeper than that of the lower grounds, but lies
upon

upon a colder bottom. Farther E. still, the ground rises into hills of a considerable, though not remarkable, height, covered partly with grass, partly with heath and rocks. At the foot of these hills, on the W. side, where the farm-houses are placed, the croft land is pretty extensive, and of an excellent quality.

Proprietors and Rent.—The Duke of Queensberry is proprietor of the whole of this parish, two small farms excepted*. The present rent of this parish is about 751 l. This, however, does by no means give a just idea of the real value of the land, as the rents of the farms have not been raised

* In former times, a great chieftain had made his residence here; and to him, no doubt, a large district of country around this had belonged. Of his castle, called *Morton Castle*, there is still a large ruin remaining. It stands upon pretty high ground near the foot of the hills, on the E. side of the parish. The present remains measure about 100 feet in length, by 27 in width. But, from the traces of the foundation, it has evidently been, when entire, about double its present wideness, and considerably longer. A great deal of the stones have been carried away at different times, to build houses and dykes in the neighbourhood. The wall of the S. front is still quite entire; it is between 30 and 40 feet in height, and has a large rounded tower at each end, of about 12 feet diameter. In this front, at the height of about 12 feet, is a row of small windows, about 16 inches square, to each of which are a few steps leading up, in the inside of the wall. In the higher parts of the building, the windows are much larger. This castle is surrounded (except on the W. side) by a deep natural hollow, in which the water had been dammed up by an artificial mound at each end. Considering the advantages of its situation, and the strength of its walls, which are about 8 feet thick at the foundation, this strong hold must have been almost impregnable by the antient modes of attack. According to Pennant, this castle "was originally the seat of Dunenald, predecessor of Thomas Randolph, afterwards created Earl of Murray by Robert Bruce; when this castle, with that of Auchincass, near Moffat, was disposed of to Douglas of Morton, predecessor of the Earls of Morton."

raised for a considerable number of years; and, at granting new leases, large grassums have been received. If the farms were let without grassums, at the rate usually paid for similar lands in this part of the country, it is supposed the rental of this parish would be about 1500 l. All the Duke of Queensberry's property here is under strict entail, and leases can be granted for no more than 19 years.

Agriculture.—Till within these 20 years, little progress had been made in the cultivation of land in this parish, or country adjoining. Indeed, previous to that period, the means of cultivation were little known, or were not to be had. In this neighbourhood, no marl of any consequence has ever been discovered, and very little lime was then used. The only manure, therefore, which the farmers had for their lands, was the dung produced by their cattle. This they very injudiciously confined to a small part of their farm, generally near the houses, called *croft land*, which, being thus enriched, and almost incessantly cropped with oats or bear, became so full of weeds, as to yield very bad returns. The principal part of the farms, though very improveable, was left entirely in a state of nature, covered with coarse grass or short heath, and grazed by a small breed of black cattle and sheep.

The mode of husbandry is now totally changed, and vastly improved. About 20 years ago, Sir James Kirkpatrick began to carry on with spirit his limeworks in the neighbouring parish of Closeburn; and, upon an extensive scale, set an example to the whole surrounding country, of the beneficial effects of that manure when properly applied to land. His example was soon followed by others, and has been the means of bringing about an amazing improvement both in the produce and in the appearance of this country. The
quantity

quantity of lime commonly allowed here to a Scotch acre is from 60 to 80 measures, which costs 9 d. *per* measure at the lime-kilns, each measure containing about $2\frac{1}{8}$ Winchester bushels.

The mode of cropping which is now pretty commonly adopted, and seems to answer well, is to lay the lime upon the land, when in pasture, a year before it is intended to be ploughed; then take two crops of oats, a crop of potatoes or turnips, and sow it with grass-seeds, along with barley or bear. If the ground has been heathy, it ought to be fallowed a year before any crop is sown upon it. Though experience has shown this course of husbandry to be very advantageous, yet many of the farmers still continue to take too many crops of oats successively, to the great detriment of the land, and, in the end, to their own hurt also. The improvement of husbandry, however, has, for some years past, been very rapid, and continues to advance and become more general.

A light made Scotch plough is almost the only one used, and is found to answer better than any other, the land being somewhat stony. Two horses are generally sufficient for the draught, except when stiff ley ground is to be broken up; in that case, three, and sometimes four, are necessary. The number of acres annually in crop, as nearly as can be ascertained, is about 850; of which 575 are sown with oats, 42 with barley, 30 with bear, 24 with wheat, 30 with grey pease, 4 with lint, 20 with turnips, 72 with potatoes, and 53 with rye-grass and clover. The produce is considerably more than sufficient to supply the inhabitants, and the surplus is carried principally to Leadhills, Wanlockhead, and Sanquhar. There are 38 ploughs in this parish, which is rather a greater number than common for the quantity of land in culture; the reason is, that many keep a horse, or

two horses and a plough, who have only a very small piece of ground which they dress, either by themselves, or by joining with some of their neighbours in the same situation. This occupies only a little of their time. During the rest, they find abundance of employment in carting lime from Closeburn, and coals from Sanquhar to the limeworks and to the town of Dumfries. The number of carts in the parish is about 95. The ordinary cart-load of coals for a single horse, which is the way they are almost all drawn, is about 12 cwt.

Stock.—The stock in this parish, which is pretty accurately ascertained, consists of 119 horses, 330 milch cows, 170 young black cattle, 2527 sheep, and a few swine, perhaps 40 or 50, their number varying according to the goodness of the potatoe crop. The sheep are all of the short-faced kind, except small parcels of a mixed breed, feeding upon the low lands along with the cows *.

Village.—The village of Thornhill is the only one deserving that name in the parish, though there are two or three
more

* The price of provisions is much the same here as in Dumfries market. Only potatoes, which are a very great article of provision, are generally somewhat cheaper, as great crops of them are raised in this district; and they cannot be carried to any great distance for sale, on account of their weight. Their price varies from 8 d. to 1 s. 4 d. *per* peck, which weighs about one cwt. Potatoes constitute at least one half of the food of the common people; none can be cheaper, and it would appear, none more wholesome.

The wages of a man servant in the house are from 6 l. to 8 l. *per annum*, besides victuals; of a woman servant, from 2 l. 10 s. to 3 l. 10 s. The daily wages of a mason are 20 d. of a joiner, 16 d. and of a common labourer, 9 d. during three months of winter, and from 1 s. to 14 d. the rest of the year, without victuals. There are no remains of feudal services in this parish.

more clusters of houses, or as they are vulgarly called, *towns*, containing from 30 to 50 inhabitants each. Thornhill is pleasantly situated upon a dry rising ground, half a mile E. from the river Nith. It is regularly built in two streets, crossing each other at right angles. In the middle, where they cut one another, stands a handsome cross, or rather pillar, erected by the late Duke of Queensberry. This village has greatly increased of late. There were only 325 inhabitants in it in the year 1779. In 1791, they amounted to 430, which is an increase of one fourth in 12 years. During 6 or 8 years previous to this period, its progress was as rapid, and it still continues to go on. The whole village belongs to the Duke of Queensberry, who receives 5 s. 4 d. of yearly rent for every house-stead and garden. The villagers build their houses entirely at their own expence. Abundance of free-stone is to be had in the neighbourhood, and the other materials for building at no great distance. All the houses, 6 or 7 excepted, consist of only one storey. Some of them are covered with slates, some with thin free-stones, but the greater part with thatch. The expence of building a house of one storey is from 12 l. to 20 l. according to the kind of roof and finishing. Those of two storeys cost from 100 l. to 180 l. each. Labourers and tradesmen find abundance of employment in Thornhill and its neighbourhood; and those who have horses, when not occupied in cultivating their small farms, carry coals from Sanquhar for hire. In this village there are 4 fairs annually; one in February, one in May, one in August, and one in November. Each of them is on the second Tuesday of the month, old stile. At these fairs, there are sold considerable quantities both of coarse woollen and linen cloth, and yarn made in the neighbourhood. A great number of people from the country around assemble there, some to hire

hire servants or transact business, and many merely for amusement.

Manufactures.—It has often been the subject of wonder, as well as of regret, that Thornhill, or its neighbourhood, has never been chosen by any person as a situation for establishing a manufacture. It certainly is extremely well adapted to that purpose, infinitely more so than many places where manufactures flourish in great perfection. The price of provisions is always considerably lower than in Lanark or Renfrew shires. The price of fuel is moderate; for, though coals are brought from Sanquhar, 12 miles distant, they are sold here at 4 d. or $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. *per* cwt.; and there is abundance of water in the Nith and Carron for driving machinery. Though the prevailing rage seems now to be directed to the cotton manufacture, wool, which is the staple of this country, seems a more natural object.

Inns, Roads, &c.—In Thornhill are two inns, and a considerable number of dram-houses, which are by no means favourable to the health or morals of the people. Two high roads cross each other in this village; the one leading from Dumfries to Ayrshire and Glasgow by Sanquhar, and to Edinburgh by Leadhills; the other going westward into Galloway by Minnyhive. The former was made a turnpike last year, and is well directed and finished. Upon it are two bridges, one over Cample, and the other over Carron. On the road towards Galloway, there is a good bridge across the Nith. The bye-roads through the parish are but indifferent; but now that the principal road is supported by tolls, it is hoped they will be put into better order, the whole money arising from the conversion of the statute labour being applied to them.

Population

Population Table.

Number of souls in 1755	435	In Thornhill, shoemakers	8
———— in 1779	712	———— weavers	2
———— in Thornhill	325	———— taylors	4
———— in the country	387	———— butcher	1
———— in 1791 *	908	———— carriers	2
Males	407	———— midwives	2
Females	501	———— labourers	24
Under 8 years of age	179	———— male servants	10
Above 8	729	———— female ditto	11
In Thornhill	430	In the country part, farm-	
In the country	478	ers	26
In Thornhill, shopkeep-		———— shopkeeper	1
ers	6	———— millers	2
———— farmers	5	———— masons	4
———— innkeepers	2	———— cart-wrights	2
———— sheriff-officers	2	———— blacksmiths	2
———— clockmakers	2	———— weavers	9
———— bakers	2	———— cooper	1
———— masons	3	———— taylors	2
———— cart-wrights and		———— labourers	15
carpenters	6	———— male servants	30
———— wheelwright	1	———— female ditto	33
———— blacksmiths	2	Antiburgher Seceders †	22
———— nailer	1	Cameronians	15

Baptisms

* The increase of population has been occasioned by the division of farms, the liming of land, the making of roads, and the additional employment for labourers which these and other improvements have afforded.

† The Antiburghers have a place of worship in Thornhill, where their minister, who resides at Minnyhive, preaches every second Sunday.

Baptisms in 11 years,		Baptisms in 11 years,	
from 1760 to 1771	124	from 1780 to 1791	223
—— Yearly average -	$11\frac{1}{11}$	—— Yearly average -	$20\frac{1}{11}$

Climate and Diseases.—A surgeon resides in this parish, whose medical practice extends over a large district of country around. The soil here being mostly dry, the air is pure and wholesome. Agues are hardly known at all; nor indeed are there any diseases to which the people are particularly subject. Inoculation for the small-pox has, for a considerable number of years, been practised with the greatest success. It is now pretty general, and is continually becoming more so, the prejudices of the people against it giving way to the force of their happy experience.

Ecclesiastical State, Schools, and Poor.—The church was built about 12 years ago, and will contain 500 or 600 people. The manse and offices are of longer standing, and need considerable repairs. The stipend consists of 58 l. 6 s. 8 d. and one chalders of victual, with 3 l. 6 s. 8 d. for communion elements. A considerable augmentation will, it is hoped, soon be obtained. The glebe is of the extent required by law. The Duke of Queensberry is patron. The schoolmaster's salary is only 100 merks Scotch, which, with a house, a cow's grafs, 3 roods of croft land, and very small wages from the scholars, is his whole provision. The present schoolmaster is a very old man; and, when a vacancy shall happen, it is hardly to be supposed that any person properly qualified will, for such trifling emoluments, be induced to become his successor. There is no body of men more useful than the parochial schoolmasters, and there is none whose allowance is generally more inadequate to their situation. The poor are supported by the collections made weekly at the church,
and

and by the interest of a capital, which has been gradually accumulated, to the amount of 150 l. by small legacies and donations to the poor from charitable persons. The Duke of Queensberry gives them 15 stones of meal annually. The number of poor upon the roll is commonly 9 or 10. A general distribution in money is made half yearly by the kirk-session, besides intermediate disbursements to those whose circumstances require more frequent aid. The sums given to individuals vary, according to their situation, from 1 l. 4 s. to 3 l. and, in some cases, 4 l. a year. The poor here are, upon the whole, supported fully as well as in any of the neighbouring parishes, and hardly any of them ever go begging through the country.

Miscellaneous Observations.—In the Carron and Cample, both of which run into the Nith, is good fishing for burntrouts. In the Nith, a considerable number of sea trouts and salmon are taken, and are usually sold at 2 d. *per* pound, but are somewhat inferior in quality to those caught nearer the mouth of the river.

Upon the Carron are three mills; one for grinding oats, another for making barley, and the third for dressing lint. To this mill lint is brought from the distance of 15 or 16 miles, as there is no other in this part of the country. Indeed, lint is not very much cultivated here, the soil being rather too light and sandy.

Although this parish is in nearly the same latitude both with Penpont and Holywood, where the people are said to be of an extraordinary stature, yet the inhabitants are, in general, neither above nor below the common size. In their manners and character there is nothing peculiar. They are just as sober and industrious as their neighbours; but it is to be regretted that the industry of many of them is so poorly rewarded.

rewarded. Spinning out a single thread from the wheel, with close application, they can hardly earn 3 d. a day; whilst others in a different part of the country, without any greater exertion, availing themselves of the useful machinery which has been invented to facilitate their work, earn four times the sum.

The most obvious and important improvements to be made in this parish are these two; the introduction of manufactures, and dividing and inclosing the land with hedge-rows and belts of planting; the former would give a better direction to the industry of the inhabitants, and greatly meliorate their condition; the latter would at once beautify and improve the country.

NUMBER XI.

PARISH OF ATHELSTANFORD.

(County and Presbytery of Haddington.—Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale.)

By the Reverend Mr GEORGE GOLDIE.

Name, Extent, &c.

THE origin of the names of places is, in general, involved in great obscurity, and has therefore occasioned much idle conjecture. The parish of Athelstanford is denominated from the village where the church stands; and, if any credit is due to Buchanan *, the village owes its name to the following incident. In one of the predatory incursions frequent at that early period, Athelstane (whom he supposes to have been a Danish chief, that had received a grant of Northumberland from King Alured) arrived in this part of the country; and, in a battle with Hungus King of the Picts, was pulled with violence from his horse, and slain. The rivulet where that battle was fought is in the immediate neighbourhood of the village, and is called *Lug Down Burn*, supposed to be a corruption of *Rug Down*. Buchanan farther adds, that Hungus, who was much inferior in every respect to Athelstane, was encouraged to hazard this battle by a vision of St Andrew the Apostle the night preceding,

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who

* Lib. 5. cap. 54.

who promised him success ; and that the victory was facilitated by the appearance of a cross in the air, in the form of the letter X, as soon as the battle began. The village over which this miraculous appearance was seen, still retains the name of *Martle*, a contraction of *miracle*. Achaius King of the Scots, by whose assistance Hungus obtained this victory, (for he sent him 10,000 men, under the command of his son Alpinus), in commemoration of the forefaid appearance of St Andrew's cross, afterwards instituted an order of knighthood in honour of St Andrew, who, in times of Popery, was reckoned the tutelary saint of Scotland. This happened about the beginning of the ninth century. It is not certain at what period the original church of this place was built ; but it is well known, that, towards the end of the 12th century, the parish churches of Athelstaneford and Crail in Fife, with their tithes, were annexed to the monastery of St Martin, in the parish of Haddington, by Malcolm IV. This was probably done in honour of the memory of his mother Ada, Countess of Northumberland, who founded that monastery.

Athelstaneford is divided from the parish of Haddington on the S. and S. W. by the small rivulet formerly mentioned, called *Lug Down Burn*. This rivulet rises in the Garleton Hills, and falls into the Frith of Forth on the N. side of Tynningham Bay. On the N. this parish is separated from that of Dirleton by another small rivulet, called *Peffer*. This rivulet rises in the N. E. corner of the parish, and divides into two streams at its source. The lands are so flat in that particular part of the country, that one of these streams runs in an easterly direction, and, after mingling its waters with Lug Down Burn, empties itself into the Frith of Forth ; the other runs due W. into the Frith of Forth at Aberlady Bay. The ground rises gradually from this rivulet to the southern extremity of the parish, where the village of Athelstaneford

staneford and the church stand. The form of the parish is regular, being nearly an oblong square, about 4 miles in length, from W. to E. and between 2 and 3 miles in breadth, from S. to N. with the addition of a few acres that intersect the parishes of Haddington and Prestonkirk, on the S. E. corner. It was originally one of the smallest parishes in Scotland, and did not contain above 800 or 1000 acres. So late as 1650, this was the whole extent of it; and the Earl of Wintoun was the sole proprietor of all the lands. At that period it was considerably enlarged, several farms having been disjoined from the parish of Haddington and annexed to it; and a still greater proportion of lands were disjoined from the parish of Prestonkirk on the E. and annexed; so that the whole extent of the parish is now from 3500 to 4000 acres.

Rent.—The valued rent of the parish is 4154 l. 1 s. Scotch. One third of this valuation is the property of Sir David Kinloch of Gilmerton, another third belongs to the Earl of Hopetoun and the Honourable Charles Hope; the remaining third is divided among the Earls of Wemyss, Aberdeen, and Elibank. The real rent cannot be ascertained exactly, a considerable part being payable in kind, and consequently varying with the prices of grain; but, when compared with the present advanced rents of land in this country, the farms in this parish are generally allowed to be good bargains. This circumstance, however, is not attended with any of those bad consequences which landlords of selfish views foolishly suspect, and wish to make the world believe. It neither encourages indolence, nor produces a spirit of insolence. The reverse is the fact. It preserves and cherishes that bond of affection which ought always to subsist between landlords and their tenants. The farmers look up to their superiors with
the

the most grateful respect, and carry on their improvements with spirit and success. They can afford to live suitably to their station, to educate their families properly, and make decent provision for them in life.

Soil, Cultivation, &c.—The soil is of an excellent quality, being, in general, a light loam. This, however, admits of exceptions, some parts being gravelly, and others inclining to clay. Almost the whole lands in the parish are arable, and have been occasionally in tillage. But when this is said, it ought to be added, that some of the lands that have been occasionally in tillage, would have turned out more for the interest of both landlord and tenant if they had been inclosed and planted; they would have afforded shelter to the better lands, which is much wanted, yielded a sufficient supply of wood for the purposes of husbandry, and added much to the beauty of the country. There is the best reason to believe, that planting would thrive on some of those lands, from a trial that has been lately made by a tenant in an adjoining parish, on lands of a similar quality; and his plantation is at present in a very thriving state. There are few parishes in Scotland of the same extent, equally distant from the sea, and without the reach of adventitious manure, that can boast of a larger proportion of good land. What are commonly called the *in-fields* of Athelstaneford, have been long considered as among the best in East Lothian. They have a beautiful south exposure; they produce the earliest and the best grass, and are well known to feed better than almost any other. The lands in the parish are, in general, in a high state of cultivation, and produce rich crops of every species of grain, particularly wheat, barley, and oats. The introduction of drilled crops, which happened within these last 30 years, has been of singular use in this parish. The
farmer

farmer has it now in his power to keep his land much cleaner than he formerly could do. The feeding of cattle on turnips gives him an additional quantity of manure; and, what is perhaps of greater value, the potching of the land, in carrying off the turnips for feeding cattle, or in eating them with sheep upon the ground, has been found to be a more effectual method of extirpating the annual weeds with which the lands were formerly much infested, than any other with which they were formerly acquainted. Besides turnips, a considerable quantity of potatoes are raised, which are a great blessing to the lower class of people. Of late, there was a coarse kind of potatoe introduced here, called the *yam*, not, as is supposed, the real American *yam*, but the Surinam potatoe, considerably larger than the common one, some of them weighing above 2 pounds. They are more prolific than the common potatoe, an acre of land properly prepared generally producing from 80 to 100 bolls. The stem grows very luxuriantly, and therefore they should never be planted closer than 3 feet between the rows, and 18 inches in the row. Cattle are uncommonly fond of them, and they are found to feed well. They are particularly proper to be given to milch cows, increasing the quantity of milk, without any injury to the taste, and improving the butter both in colour and flavour.

There are 16 farms in the parish, one of which is in the natural possession of one of the proprietors, and three are possessed by farmers who do not reside on them. There is one farm of about 500 acres, another of 350, and a third of about 300. The rest are from 150 to 200 acres each, with the exception of one that is only about 50. A considerable part of the parish is inclosed, but there still remains a good deal to be done in that way. From their vicinity to Haddington, the farmers can dispose of the various produce
of

of their farms to great advantage, and at small expence. A considerable part of their grain is bought by agents for the corn-merchants in Leith, Edinburgh, and Glasgow, and carried to the port of North Berwick, and from thence conveyed in shipping to different parts of Scotland. The number of ploughs in the parish, according to the statute work, is $47\frac{1}{4}$. The English plough is chiefly used, and drawn by two horses. There are in the parish about 50 two horse, and 6 one horse carts, and 1 coach. Besides the horses used in agriculture, &c. there are some kept solely for riding; and, of late, owing to the high prices of horses, the farmers have begun to rear young ones, partly for sale, but chiefly for the support of their own stock. The whole number of horses, young and old, is from 150 to 160; they are of an excellent kind, not large, but very active, and fit to do a great deal of work. The number of milch cows is about 160. The rest of the black cattle exceeds that number considerably, and varies in different seasons. There is often a great number of Highland stots, over and above the black cattle reared by themselves, kept by the farmers in their straw-yards through the winter, and fed off in summer in grass parks, which they take annually for that and other purposes. Of late years, there have been from 35 to 40 scores of sheep in the parish, a greater number than formerly, a larger proportion of land having been in grass.

Population.—The population of this parish has, upon the whole, decreased within these 14 years past. This is owing to the same general causes that have operated in other parts of the country, the monopolizing of farms, the introduction of two horse ploughs, and a greater proportion of lands being kept in grass. Upon the three farms formerly mentioned, possessed by farmers who do not reside on them, the decrease

crease of population within the above period has been 50 souls.

Population Table.

Number of souls in 1755	691	Females	-	-	503	
----- in 1778	955	Under 10	-	-	199	
Males	-	-	445	Above 10	-	728
Females	-	-	510	Burgher Seceders	-	12
Under 10	-	-	126	Antiburgher ditto	-	22
Above 10	-	-	829	Inhabited houses	-	220
Burgher Seceders	-	19	Annual average of births	25		
Antiburgher ditto	-	49	Males	-	-	13
Inhabited houses	-	223	Females	-	-	12
Number of souls in 1792	927	Annual average of deaths	17 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Males	-	-	424	----- of marriages	6	

While the number of souls in the parish, in general, has diminished, the population of the village of Athelstaneford has increased very much. In the 1778, the number of inhabited houses was 71, containing 295 inhabitants. In 1792, the number of inhabited houses is 92, containing 387 inhabitants, an increase of 21 houses and 92 souls. The increase of buildings and of inhabitants in the village is owing to the liberal encouragement given by Sir David Kinloch of Gilmerton, the proprietor, to people to settle on his estate. The houses are built upon a feu-tack of 38 years, at the expense of the people, who pay to the proprietor a trifle annually for the ground on which the house stands. They have large gardens, of an excellent soil, at the same proportion of rent which a farmer would cheerfully pay for it. Besides this, the feuers of these houses hold, in a conjunct lease, about 100 acres of good land at a moderate rent. This land

land is divided among them into small lots. Two of their number have each a pair of horses. With these they labour the land for the community at a reasonable hire, and drive coals and other carriages that are necessary for the village. With the produce of this land the inhabitants supply themselves with meal and potatoes, and many of them have it in their power to keep a cow. In this manner they are enabled to live comfortably, to clothe and educate their children decently, and to assist in setting them out in the world. There is no village in this country where the inhabitants have improved more of late years in comfort and convenience than in the village of Athelstaneford. Formerly, their dwellings were no better than small, dirty, dark hovels; now they are all neat, commodious houses, generally with two apartments, and well lighted. The expence of building one of these houses is from 15 l. to 20 l.; and some, that are larger and better finished, cost considerably more. In point of situation, the village is truly beautiful. It stands open and elevated, and commands the most delightful and extensive prospects. The Frith of Forth, with the whole coast of Fife, from Kinghorn to Crail. South of the Forth is a rich variety of beautiful objects, both natural and artificial, immediately under the eye, such as North Berwick Law, the Bass, Tantallan, Tropeine Law, part of Lammermuir, Garleton Hills, Killduff, five or six gentlemens seats, with the extensive plantations of Gilmerton, Newbyth, and Tynninghame. A situation thus beautiful and eligible, with the advantages formerly mentioned, have had no small influence in alluring such a number of inhabitants, of different professions in life, to settle in it; and, while many villages in Scotland are deserted, and permitted to go to ruins, the worthy proprietor of Athelstaneford has the pleasure of seeing a flourishing village rise on his estate, the numerous inhabitants of which look up to him

him with gratitude as their guardian and benefactor, always ready to advise, protect, and assist them.

Climate, &c.—From the elevated situation of the village, and the open state of the parish in general, the inhabitants are very healthy. No epidemical distempers of any kind, excepting the common diseases incident to children, are known; and deaths are chiefly confined to infancy and old age. Many instances of longevity have occurred. One man died about a year ago at the age of 90, and several above 80. There are, at present, in the parish, 10 persons above 80, all of them healthy and active. The practice of inoculation is become general among persons of better station; and it is attended with the happiest effects, not one child having ever died under that management. The common people still retain strong prejudices against it, and they often suffer severely for their obstinacy. About two years ago, out of 20 children in the village who took the small-pox in the natural way, no fewer than 5 died; while all who were inoculated had them in the most favourable way, and recovered immediately. A fact of this kind, so well known, and with which the lives of children are so essentially connected, one would imagine, must overcome the most obstinate prejudices. It may be proper to observe, that besides people in the other lines of life that are settled in the village, there is a baker and a brewer. But, among the other advantages which this village and parish enjoys, there is one that deserves particular notice. One of the best butcher markets in Scotland is established here. It was originally set up under the patronage of the late Sir Francis Kinloch of Gilmerton, and has been carried on with success for more than 60 years by the same man, who, during that long period, has been universally respected for his integrity and frankness in dealing. He was among the first

graziers in this country. When in the vigour of life, he possessed uncommon spirit and activity, and carried on business as a grazier and butcher to greater extent than any other individual in East Lothian. Of late, he has wisely contracted his business to a smaller scale, but still supplies the parish and neighbourhood with every kind of butcher meat in the season, of the best quality; beef from 3 d. to 4½ d. *per lib.* mutton, veal, and lamb, in proportion. He is now in the 84th year of his age, healthy and active, with still a “spark of youthful fire.” A woollen manufacture of striped variegated cloth has been carried on in the village for some years past, on a small scale. The cloth sells from 4 s. 6. d. to 5 s. 6 d. *per yard.* It is made of the best materials, is esteemed a light, genteel, and comfortable dress, and is known in Edinburgh by the name of the *Gilmerton Livery*. The demand for it increases, the manufacturer has both spirit and stock to carry it on to greater extent, but finds great difficulty in procuring female hands to prepare the materials. Accustomed from their early years to work in the fields in weeding the corn, hoeing, &c. they prefer what they call outwork in summer to any domestic employment*.

Pocr.

* Though persons of distinguished characters are not produced in every age and in every soil, yet it is well known that this parish has produced men of eminent abilities in different professions of life. Towards the end of the 16th, and beginning of the 17th century, a great part of the lower lands of East Lothian were possessed by the Hepburns, collateral branches of the Earls of Bothwell. A gentleman of that name was proprietor of the lands of Athelstaneford. A second son of his went into the Swedish service. General Lesly, in passing through this country at the head of a company, on their way to embark to join Gustavus Adolphus, then at the head of the Protestant League in Germany against the Emperor Ferdinand II. saw young Hepburn, and was struck with his appearance, (for he was tall and handsome), and spoke to him in a manner that
roused

Poor.—There are no beggars in this parish ; neither is there any memorial of there ever having been any affluence for

roused the spirit of the young hero, and he immediately joined the party. He soon distinguished himself by his military talents, and rose to the rank of colonel of the Scotch Brigade. In that command he performed many important services, and often received public praise from Gullavus for his gallant conduct. He afterwards went into the French service, and died a Field Marshal of France. But, though few possess talents to distinguish themselves by such splendid achievements as Hepburn, or have opportunities of rising to such eminent rank, yet there are men who, in the humbler paths of life, have opportunities of performing services of great general utility, and of essential importance to the improvement of their country ; and, if it is a just observation, as it certainly is, That the man who makes “ two blades of grass, and two ears of corn grow where only one grew before,” deserves to be ranked among the benefactors of mankind, it would be improper not to mention in a publication of this nature, (meant to mark the progress of improvement in this country), the following character. His name, which deserves to be handed down to posterity, was John Walker. It is not certain that he was a native of this parish ; but he possessed land, to a considerable extent, both in this and a neighbouring parish, and was the first farmer in this country who either sowed an acre of land, or sowed a boll of wheat, on what is commonly called outfield land. He took the hint from an English gentleman travelling in this country. When he began the experiment, many of his neighbours laughed at his seeming folly, while his more immediate connections were alarmed at the circumstance of his not sowing his fields, and considered it as a symptom of poverty. His crop exceeded his most sanguine expectations, and justified the wisdom of his conduct ; and his neighbours had the good sense to follow his example. This experiment was made in the parish of Prestonkirk, on the estate of Beankton, now the property of the Earl of Wemyss, and happened towards the end of the last century. Some years after this, perhaps more than 20, the sowing of clover and other grass seeds was introduced into this country by the Earl of Haddington, grandfather of the present nobleman. These were the first, and will probably prove the most important and permanent, of all improvements in modern husbandry. Robert Blair, Esquire, present Solicitor General for Scotland, who fills that

for the support of the poor. The public funds are ample, and fully adequate to that purpose. The number upon the poor's roll is from 12 to 15, who are regularly supplied every quarter. Besides those upon the roll, there are others who receive occasional supply in coals, in the payment of their house rents, and are assisted in educating their children. The common people, in general, are ashamed to receive public charity. In order to preserve this sense of shame, which is one of the best guardians of virtue, the kirk-session give a power to the farmers to give such of their dependents as are in want, corn and other necessaries which they may judge proper, for which they are paid out of the public funds. At other times, some of them that are in distress, are relieved by giving them money in the way of loan, which they are allowed

that high department in the law with much honour to himself, and advantage to his country, is a native of this place. His father was minister of this parish, a gentleman eminent for his learning and piety. He possessed considerable poetical talents, and was author of a small poem, entitled, *The Grave*, much admired for its elegance and poetical merit. The first modern tragedy in the English language was written by the celebrated author of it when minister of this parish. When this is said, it is almost unnecessary to add, that the Tragedy of Douglas, written by Mr John Home, is here meant; for it is universally allowed, that the tragic muse never wears her "Weeds of Woe" so gracefully, or with such happy effect, as in the character of Lady Randolph. Mr Home was 10 years minister of this parish; and, during his incumbency, was not less admired as a preacher, than he has been since as a poet. Upon demitting his charge, he built an elegant villa in the parish, and laid out the ground about it with great taste. It adds much to the beauty of this place. Painting, too, the sister art of poetry, has been cultivated here with taste and advantage. The son of a respectable farmer in this parish, from his earliest years discovered a remarkable genius for drawing and painting. As he advanced in life, he applied chiefly to miniatures, in which he excelled. For these several years past, he has been in Italy; and there is good reason to believe that he ranks among the first artists in that country.

allowed to repay when able. In this manner their wants are supplied, and their feelings not hurt. Even in the 1782, a season of uncommon calamity in many parishes, the poor here were well taken care of. They got a small addition to their former allowance, and were comfortable. The annual expenditure, above 60 l. arises from the interest of money, collections at the church-door, the use of the mort-cloth, and of a hearse. But, though there are no beggars in this parish, it is often much harassed by vagrant poor from other parishes. This is certainly a very great defect in the police of this county which ought to be remedied.

Schools.—There are two public schools in this parish. The parochial school is established in the village of Athelstaneford. The schoolmaster has the legal salary of 100 merks. He is precentor, session clerk, and collector of the money for the statute labour in the parish, which is a small addition. He is well qualified to teach English, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, mathematics, and the Latin, Greek, and French languages. His scholars are very numerous, generally from 60 to 80, and sometimes more. But, with all his attention and industry, his annual income will not exceed 30 l. Sterling. This, which is affluence when compared with the average livings of the schoolmasters in Scotland, is but small encouragement for a man of merit, who has received a liberal education. It is indeed much to be regretted, that so useful a class of men should be so poorly rewarded for their laborious services; and it reflects no honour upon the landed interest of Scotland, that, in the late attempt the schoolmasters made to get some addition to their livings, they met with such violent and determined opposition. If the wisdom of the legislature, an hundred years ago, thought it proper and necessary to allow them a small salary, surely it cannot

cannot be unworthy of the same wisdom, in the present enlightened and prosperous state of this country, to do something to make their incomes keep pace, in some measure, with the other orders in society. If something of this kind is not done, there is reason to apprehend, that, within a few years, many parishes in Scotland will not be able to find men sufficiently qualified to superintend the education of youth. The consequences of this are as obvious as they are alarming. Gothic ignorance forebodes nothing friendly either to private happiness or national improvement. The other school in this parish is in the village of Drem. The late Earl of Hoptoun, with that generosity and attention to the comfort of his dependents which strongly marked his Lordship's character, allowed the schoolmaster 1 boll barley, 1 boll oats, and 1 boll pease, with maintenance for a cow, summer and winter, by way of salary. He has likewise a free house and garden. The scholars are taught reading English, writing, and arithmetic, and are generally from 30 to 50. There is likewise a female teacher in the village of Athelstaneford, for instructing girls in sewing, working lace, &c. She, too, is allowed a free house and a small salary.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church, manse, school-house, and schoolmaster's house, have all been new built within these last 12 years, and all of them after the most approved plans; so that there is no parish in Scotland better accommodated in these respects. The stipend is 8 bolls wheat, 16 bolls barley, 32 bolls oats, 750 l. Scotch, (including 50 l. for communion elements), with 25 merks Scotch, as the interest of 500 merks mortified money on the estate of Monkridge, in the parish of Haddington, by Mrs Hepburn, of pious memory. Sir David Kinloch of Gilmerton is patron, and is the only one of 6 heritors that resides in the parish.

Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous Observations.—The only antiquities in this parish are the vestige of a camp, seemingly Danish, concerning which there is no tradition, and history is silent; and the remains of a chapel, called *St John's Chapel*, which belonged to the Knights Templars. These are both on the property of the Earl of Hopetoun. The house of Garleton, too, may be mentioned under this head. It appears to have been a place of magnificence, but is now almost in ruins. It is beautifully situated at the foot of the Garleton Hills, at the west end of a large strath of fertile land, and commands a delightful prospect of a large proportion of the lower lands of East Lothian.

There are four alehouses in the parish, but they are attended with no bad consequences either to the health or the morals of the people; they are, what they ought to be, places of accommodation for travellers, or for transacting necessary business. There are two corn-mills; one upon the estate of Sir David Kinloch, the other upon the property of the Earl of Hopetoun. Their respective tenants are thirled to these mills, which is sometimes complained of as a grievance, but certainly without good reason, since the thirlage ought to be considered as a part of their rent; at the same time, it must be confessed, that it would be much better if every servitude of this kind was done away. There are three smiths in the parish, and tradesmen of every kind connected with the improvements in husbandry. The prices of labour and provisions are almost double of what they were 40 years ago. This is one of the many other proofs that might be given of the flourishing state of the country.

The inhabitants of this parish have been long remarkable for the liberality of their sentiments in religious matters. They are exemplary in their attendance upon the ordinances of religion, and uncommonly decent in their behaviour upon
these

these occasions. Those in a better station are attentive to the comfort of their dependents. In their social intercourse, they are kind without affectation, and hospitable without extravagance. The lower class are sober, peaceable, and industrious. Upon the whole, there are few parishes in Scotland that enjoy greater advantages than the parish of Athelstaneford, and none in which the people, in general, are more comfortable, contented, and happy.

NUMBER XII.

PARISH OF KIRKURD.

(County and Presbytery of Peebles.—Synod of Lothian
and Tweeddale.)

By the Reverend Mr DAVID ANDERSON.

Name, Extent, &c.

THE termination *urd* is from the Celtic language, and signifies a quarter or fourth part ; hence the following description of places at each extremity of the parish, Kirkurd, Ladyurd, Netherurd, and Lochurd. The length of the parish, from E. to W. is $5\frac{1}{2}$ English miles ; and its breadth, from N. to S. from 3 to 4. The parish, in general, presents a surface finely diversified ; and, what is remarkable in a hilly country, such as Tweeddale generally is, the low or arable land bears almost an equal proportion, in point of extent, to the high or sheep grounds. The parish, from actual survey, contains 6620 acres, English measure. The soil is of different kinds. Towards the small river Tarrh, it is mostly loam ; in one large farm we meet with clay ; but the prevailing soil is gravelish. The light soil is preferable for crops, as the parish lies in general high, being upwards of 600 feet above the level of the sea. Though the air is sharp, it is pure and healthful. Distempers are far from being frequent. Rheumatism is the most prevalent. This is, in a great measure, owing to the little attention that is paid to

warm and dry clothing, and to the cold and uncomfortable houses of the poorer classes. Though there are no remarkable instances of longevity, except one man who died about 10 years ago, whose age was 92, (he was born in the parish, and resided in it all his life), yet the inhabitants arrive, in general, to a good age.

Rivers and Hills.—The Tarth runs along the north end of the parish, and divides it from Linton and Newlands. It abounds with a trout of a superior size and flavour from what is caught in the neighbouring rivers, owing perhaps to the stillness with which the river flows, and the abundant provision to be met with in its numerous pools. A few large trout or small salmon come up this stream from the Tweed after a flood; but, as they only appear in spawning time, they are unwholesome food.

The highest hill is Hell's Cleugh, on the summit of which is a small cairn, called the *Pyked flane*, the boundary of three parishes, viz. Stobo, Broughton, and Kirkurd. From this cairn is a view of the country beyond the Forth, and a chain of mountains, from the east part of Fife, as far as Dunbartonshire. South of the Forth, the view extends as far east as North Berwick; likewise to the Eildon Hills near Melrose, and Cheviot Hills in Northumberland. The height of this hill above the level of the sea was found by Captain Armstrong, who made a survey of the county, to be 2100 feet.

Proprietors.—There are four heritors, of whom only one resides at present in the parish. Mr Carmichael of Skirling, and Mr Lawson of Cairnmuir, have their principal seats here. The mansion-house of Kirkurd is a modern building, with an extensive policy. In the gardens are a green-house, an ice-house, and 3 small hot-houses. This place was vastly
beautified

beautified and improved by the late worthy proprietor, John Earl of Hyndford, who left Kirkurd, and other valuable estates, to his grandnephew John Carmichael of Skirling. Mr Lawfon has lately built at New Cairnmuir, or Netherurd, a large and elegant house. Around it are several inclosures and plantations of value.

Statistical Table.

Ploughs	-	-	22	Old houses pulled down,		
Carts	-	-	50	ditto	-	11
Horses young and old			70	Married persons	-	86
Cows and young cattle			200	Unmarried men above 20		28
Sheep	-	-	2000	———— women ditto		48
Valued rent, Scotch				Widowers	-	5
	L.	1108 : 15 : 4		Widows	-	10
Real rent, Sterling, about	-	-	L. 850	Of the established		
				Church	-	250
Farms above 50l. each			3	Burgher Seceders	-	23
———— under 50l.	-		10	Antiburgher ditto	-	11
Population in 1755	-		310	Relief ditto	-	3
———— in 1792	-		288	Episcopalians	-	1
Males	-		131	Clergyman	-	1
Females	-		157	Merchant	-	1
Under 10	-		55	Schoolmaster	-	1
Between 10 and 20	-		56	Innkeeper	-	1
———— 20 and 50	-		113	Smiths	-	3
———— 50 and 70	-		58	Carpenters	-	3
———— 70 and 80	-		6	Weavers and apprentices		4
Families	-		65	Shoemakers and ditto	-	2
Houses uninhabited	-		6	Tailors and ditto	-	4
Houses built within 10				Gardeners and ditto	-	3
years preceding 1792			12	Millers	-	2
				Overseer		

Overfeer	-	-	1	Marriages, ditto	-	-	33
Male servants	-	-	44	Buried, ditto, in the pa-			
Female ditto	-	-	38	rish	-	-	34
Day-labourers	-	-	9	Buried, ditto, from other			
Student	-	-	1	parishes	-	-	32
Baptisms for 10 years,							
from 1783 to 1792			51				

Agriculture, &c.—About 480 acres are kept in tillage. The common mode of farming in the croft land, (which receives all the house dung of the farms), is to have a third part under pease, potatoes, and turnips, as cleaning and meliorating crops; which third, the succeeding year (if not dunged with the cleaning crops) is dunged for bear, and next year is sown with oats. Clover, and, in a great measure, turnips, are excluded from the rotation, from the want of inclosures, and the difficulty of defending them from the sheep in winter. There may be about 240 acres of croft managed in this way, viz. 80 in pease, potatoes, turnips, and lint, 80 in bear, and 80 in oats, in a year. The remaining 240 acres under tillage are outfield, and are manured by the cattle folded at night in summer, to keep them from the growing corns. The folds are inclosures made of fedi, at the expence of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. or 2 d. the running rood of 6 yards, at $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet in height. The leys intended to be brought into tillage are inclosed in this manner early in the spring; the sheep and black cattle are kept in distinct folds; and 10 score of sheep may dung in this way about 3 acres in a season. When the corns are got off the fields in harvest, the folds are levelled, and the ground ploughed. Three crops of oats are, in general, taken successively after folding; but, when the folded land is also limed on the sward, 5 crops are sometimes taken. The land is then left to collect sward as
it

it may. This is the general description of the treatment of the land in tillage ; but there are several exceptions, where a better system is introduced ; and the Norfolk system of a rotation of four, seems to be approved of, where there is opportunity to carry it into practice. In a few instances, the dairy farming has been introduced as the chief article of profit.

The Scotch plough is generally used, with two strong horses, except in 4 instances with four. Small's plough has likewise been introduced. The horses, young and old, in this parish, will amount to about 70. A few are reared for the market, and sold when young ; but the generality is for private use, and to supply the waste of the old. Thirty head of black cattle, at an average of 4*l.* each, may be sold yearly. The milch cows are, at an average, from 16 to 28 stones weight. They produce from 4 to 10 Scotch pints of milk *per* day, a few 16 or 18. The sheep are of the common Scotch breed. The number that can be spared is sold at different periods. In April, when big with young, at 10*l.* or 11*l.* *per* score ; in September, to the butcher, or for further feeding, about 7*l.* *per* score. The lambs are sold in July from 2*l.* 10*s.* to 4*l.* *per* score. What remains after these different *drawings*, (as they are termed), are kept for stock ; they are all laid with butter or oil, and tar, about Martinmas. The wool of late years has been rapidly rising in value. It was sold last year, after being washed, at 6*s.* 4*d.* and 6*s.* 6*d.* *per* stone ; 7 or 8 fleeces of the washed wool generally go to the stone.

Between 500 and 600 acres of land are inclosed, a considerable part of which is well sheltered with trees, and sufficiently watered. This land, on an average, may be worth 16*s.* *per* acre. About 150 of these acres, divided into parks of different sizes, command, by grazing, 160*l.* *per annum.*

The

The lands are inclosed by hedge and ditch. The hedges and ditches are frequently in double rows, at the distance of a few feet from each other.

There are many valuable plantations both of the different kinds of hard wood, and the various species of fir. Some of these are arrived at their full growth, and young trees are gradually coming up to supply the waste of the old. The number of acres planted will amount to upwards of 200. There are no natural woods in the parish *.

Services, &c.—A few services are still performed by the tenants, such as driving of coals, casting, winnowing, and driving peats home. There are a considerable number, too, of kain hens paid. There is a public-house in the parish for the accommodation of travellers. It has no bad effect on the morals of the people, who are, in general, a set of sober and industrious men. Two great roads pass through this parish, the one from Edinburgh to Moffat, the other, lately made, from Peebles to Glasgow. They are upheld by road-makers, and are kept in tolerable repair. The statute labour

was

* In consequence of manufactures established in this, and particularly in the neighbouring county, there is a great demand for work people. Servants have of course become rather scarce in this part of the country. The wages are rising every year. A good ploughman earns 6 guineas, or upwards, and female servants from 3*l.* to 4*l.* *per annum*, with their vic-tuals. There is no market here for provisions. The butcher meat is brought from Peebles, Biggar, or Edinburgh. Butter is sold, in general, at 8*d.* *per lib.*; ewe milk cheese at 6*s.* 6*d.* cow milk at 4*s.* *per stone*; eggs in summer, 4*d.* in winter, 6*d.* *per dozen*; chickens 8*d.* a pair; hens 1*s.* ducks 10*d.* a piece. Day-labourers earn *per day*, in winter, 6*d.* in summer 8*d.* with their victuals. Ditches, casting, and operations of that kind, are generally done by the piece, from 9*d.* to 1*s.* the running rood of 6 yards. Piece work is preferred by labourers. Car-penters wages are 1*s.* a day, masons 1*s.* 4*d.* taylors 8*d.*

was converted some years ago by act of Parliament. The bridges are kept in excellent order.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church was rebuilt in 1766, when it was removed about half a mile westward from its former situation in Kirkurd policy. Around it there is a piece of ground appropriated for burying; but, though this burial-ground has been now opened for upwards of 20 years, the old church-yard, for various reasons, is still very much used. The stipend, with the addition of a manse, and a glebe of 19 acres, will amount to upwards of 80 l. Sterling. The manse, offices, and glebe, which were formerly at a considerable distance from both kirks, are now in the neighbourhood of the new. The manse and offices were all new built in 1788. The greatest part of the new glebe (which was exchanged for the old) has been inclosed by the minister, at his own expence, with hedge and ditch. John Carmichael, Esq; of Skirling is patron.

Poor.—As there are no rates, the poor are supported from the weekly collections in the church, by dues at proclamations for marriage, by dues for mort-cloths, and the interest of a capital of 140 l. at 5 *per cent*.

Average of the annual expences of supporting the Poor.

	No. of Poor.	Expence.
For 5 years preceding 1758,	- 6 $\frac{2}{5}$ -	L. 5 4 0 $\frac{4}{5}$
<hr/> 1778,	- 10 $\frac{3}{5}$ -	10 9 6 $\frac{3}{5}$
For 10 years preceding 1792,	- 6 $\frac{6}{10}$ -	9 7 8 $\frac{7}{10}$

In 1782, the whole crop of oats in the parish was frost bitten. It was not got in before the month of December. The meal was exceedingly bad, and sold at 2 l. 5 s. *per* load.
The

The farmers sustained great losses, after all the deductions that was made of their rents by the lairds. They bought the whole of their seed-oats next spring from Lothian and Roxburghshire. One heritor commissioned a considerable quantity of oats from Essex, sowed part of them himself, and distributed part among his tenants. The kirk-session bought several loads of oat-meal, and sold it to cottars and householders at 1s. the peck. This, with the white beans brought from Leith, gave great relief. They have resolved this year (1792) to lay up a few loads of oat and bear meal, and sell it out at a reduced price, in case these articles should rise to an extravagant rate.

A society was established in this parish 6 years ago, named *the Kirkurd Friendly Society*, in order to raise a fund for the relief of distressed members. Each member pays 2s. at entry, and 4s. 4d. a year, and continues 3 years before he receives any benefit; at the end of which time, if he is unable to work, is entitled to 2s. *per week*. The capital is now 80l. As the fund increases, they intend to make a small provision for their widows. For the two last years, the clergy have countenanced this Society, by giving a sermon at the annual meeting. The collection at that time is for behoof of the Society.

School.—The schoolmaster's salary is 8l. 6s. 8d. with a house and garden. The school and schoolmaster's house were all new built, with slated roofs, in 1773. The number of scholars, at an average, is about 20. The school wages are, for reading, 1s. *per quarter*; for writing, 1s. 6d.; for arithmetic, 2s. The schoolmaster is also session-clerk and precentor, whose salary is 1l. *per annum*, besides perquisites, for proclamations of marriages, recording of baptisms, and writing

ting testimonials, amounting to about 10 s. yearly at an average.

Miscellaneous Observations.—There is a copious sulphureous spring near Kirkurd-house. A chemical analysis was made of it some years ago by Dr Black of Edinburgh, by which it was found to be stronger than the sulphureous water at Moffat, but weaker than that at Harrogate. It has been used of late with success in several distempers. Coal, peat, and turf, are all used here for fuel. In gentlemens families, coals are always burnt; they are situated at 8 or 9 miles distance. Peats, to a great extent and depth, and of a very superior quality, are found in one farm in this parish; they are not cast. The tenants have a privilege of casting peats in different mosses in the parish of Linton, and consequently avail themselves of that privilege.

Until 1752, the large estate of Kirkurd was the resident property of Geddes of Rachan for 1100 years, while Rachan, from whence the title was taken, is reported to have been in the possession of the Geddes's for 1300 years. James Geddes of Rachan was born in this parish in 1710, was educated for, and practised several years at, the bar, but died of a consumption before he arrived at the age of 40. He published an Essay on the Composition and Manner of Writing of the Ancients, and left behind him several other tracts*.

Among

* In the parks of Kirkurd are two small mounts, called the *Castle* and *Laaw*. They are surrounded with a dike of an irregular form. Mr Gordon, in his Itinerary, thinks them artificial, but does not form any conjecture as to their use. There is to the east of these, a circular fortification on an eminence near Ladyurd, called the *Rings*, and another to the west, on the farm of Lochurd, called the *Chesters*; hence they are supposed to have been a military erection; and a place called *Gambbrigend*, a mile south to the last of these, farther confirms this idea.

Among the advantages formerly mentioned which this parish enjoys, may be added its vicinity to lime; but, notwithstanding of the acknowledged advantages arising from lime to land, the farmers here have not generally (as yet) availed themselves of it. One disadvantage which this place labours under, (and which was specified above), is the exaction of services; but there is another grievance under which the farmers groan, and which calls loudly for redress, and that is the payment of multure. The tenants are thirled to the mills, and pay a high multure, which is a great bar to improvement. By thirlage a forced employment is given to mills, for which there would be no demand, if things were left to their natural course. Though the generality of the country around is fitter for sheep pasture than tillage, yet no less than four corn-mills are found on the Water of Tath, all in the space of about a mile and a half, two of which are situated within this parish.

NUM.

More than 30 years ago, there was found in the Mount-hill a clay urn full of bones, which was surrounded with four broad stones, and covered with a stone on the top. There was lately found at the bottom of the same hill, a stone coffin, about $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep. Its bottom was gravel, the sides built of several stones, and the cover one entire stone. The body was not lying at full length, as, by the size of the bones, it appeared to have been about 6 feet long. The bones appeared entire when first discovered; but, upon being exposed to the air, and lifted up by the hand, they crumbled to dust. There was found among the bones three flint stones, one resembling a halbert, another of a circular form, and the third cylindrical. The first is supposed to be the antient weapon called the *stone cult*, the other were two kinds of warlike instruments. There was also discovered a small ring. This is a Druidical amulet; and it was an indication that a person of rank was here interred.

Hairstones, so named, perhaps, from a few erect stones arranged circularly, is said to have been a place for religious worship. In the immediate neighbourhood is the Kirkdean and Temple lands.

NUMBER XIII.

PARISH OF BOTRIPHNIE.

(County of Banff.—Presbytery of Strathbogie.—Synod of Moray.)

By the Reverend Mr ALEXANDER ANGUS.

Extent, Name, &c.

FEW parishes in Scotland afford less subject for statistical inquiries than this of Botriphnie. It is situated about 24 English miles W. from the county town, and extends from N. to S. about $4\frac{1}{2}$, and from E. to W. about 3 English miles, comprehending the whole breadth of the county, being bounded by the parish of Glafs, in Aberdeenshire, on the S. and on the N. by part of Dundurcas, in Moray.

The name of the parish, like most others in this part of Scotland, is probably of Gaelic origin; but, though the present incumbent has conversed with many persons who understood that language, he could obtain no information with respect to its derivation. The greater part of the parish consists of one beautiful strath, situated between two hills to the N. and S. with the small river of Isla (which takes its rise in the W. part of the parish towards Mortlach) running through the middle of it. The banks of this stream are beautifully adorned with aller and birch trees, the natural produce of the country; several small rills, which fall into it from the hills on each side, are covered in the same manner; and

and the proprietor has made very extensive plantations of fir and other trees, all which add greatly to the beauty of the country. The fir trees towards the top of the hills are generally dwarfish; but they increase in size towards the bottom, and are generally found to thrive better in a northerly than in a southerly exposure.

Soil, Agriculture, &c.—The soil is a black loam, and, in some places, a strong clay, and not many feet from the surface. Limestone, of an excellent quality, is to be met with in every field; but it is little used, except for the purposes of building. Many farmers in this parish have tried it without success; and, though they do not pretend to say that it hurts their fields, yet they do not find the returns from it equal to the expence. A gentleman, who rents a very extensive farm, has lately used lime in very considerable quantities; but it will require a little time fully to ascertain its effects. On ground lately taken in from the heath, its influence is more perceptible.

The fields on the N. side of the parish have a good exposure, and are of considerable extent, from the river to the top of the hill; and, for the whole length of the parish on that side, there is hardly a break in them, except where they are intersected by a few small rills, and clumps of birch and alder. About every farm there are a considerable number of ash trees, which are equally subservient to utility and ornament.

Except in two farms, there are no inclosures in the parish. The stones for that purpose might be quarried at no great expence. In general, the ridges are straight; but few other improvements in husbandry are to be met with. No country answers better for sown grass; and as rich fields of it are to be met with here as in any part of Scotland; but they are confined

confined to two or three farms, and serve only to show what the country might produce, were it in the hands of persons who had abilities or encouragement to improve.

Rent, Services, &c.—The rent of the parish is upwards of 1000 l. Sterling, divided into farms of different extent, from 70 l. to 8 l. a year, partly paid in money, and partly in oatmeal. It may be proper to mention, among other causes that retard improvement, that leases are only granted for 19 years, and some for a shorter period; that besides the rent, as above specified, several services are exacted of the tenants, such as leading fuel, cutting down corn in harvest, and other exactions of a similar nature, which, if viewed in a proper light, are more hurtful to the tenant than beneficial to the proprietor.

These remains of feudal vassalage are mentioned with reluctance; and it is to be hoped, that the good sense of the proprietors will lead them to vie with one another in removing every restraint on industry, and consider it as their honour, as it is certainly their interest, to see their tenants thriving and independent. For this purpose, besides an allowance to build comfortable houses, make substantial inclosures, and plant trees and hedges, no lease should be for a shorter period than two 19 years and a life; and thirlage, and every other service, should be abolished.

Flax answers well in this parish, and considerable quantities of it are raised annually. Barley and oats are the principal produce of the country. The late harvests, for some years past, have discouraged the growth of pease; but, in ordinary years, they are very productive, both in point of corn and provender for cattle, and as an excellent preparation for a crop of barley.

The

The rent of land, when let out in small parcels, is 20 s. the Scotch acre; and, in larger farms, about 15 s. Land of an inferior quality lets from 6 s. to 10 s. Barley harvest begins generally about the middle of September, though oats are commonly three weeks later. An earlier species of oats has of late been introduced, which succeeds well on ground in good heart, and is as soon ready as barley.

In 1782, there was a great deficiency in the crop, owing to the frost coming on early, and preventing the grain from coming to maturity. Had it not been for a very considerable importation, the consequences must have been fatal. The deficiency of the succeeding crop arose entirely from the badness of the seed. Even oats that appeared little inferior in plumpness and colour to the produce of ordinary years, proved equally unfit for seed as the poorest grain. They looked well on their first coming above ground, but soon after totally disappeared*.

Manufactures, &c.—In this parish there are 9 weavers, 3 turners, chiefly employed in making spinning wheels, 1 carpenter, 4 tailors, 4 shoemakers, 2 shopkeepers, and 12 masons. The latter are not much employed within the parish; but they find work in the southern counties, and reside here in the winter.

The women are employed in spinning linen yarn, from flax partly of their own rearing, and partly imported from Holland by the manufacturers. The latter kind is spun from 6 to 8 hanks in the pound, and varies in the price of spinning according to the demand. Flax of home growth is spun from 2 to 5 hanks in the pound, and is sold at an annual

* The price of labour has increased much within 7 years. Men servants wages are from 6 l. to 7 l. and women-servants about 50 s. a year. A day-labourer earns 6 d. besides victuals.

nual fair held here in February, and bought up by manufacturers in the villages of Keith and Huntly, who send it to Glasgow and Paisley. At present, it sells at 2 s. 6 d. the spindle, or 4 hanks, which is 4 d. dearer than it was last season.

A considerable quantity of linen cloth is likewise made from flax reared in the parish, which, after it is bleached, is sold at an annual fair held in Keith in September, and at Huntly in July.

Produce.—A great deal of money is annually received for black cattle, which have now become an object of as much importance to the farmer as corn itself.

Much more grain is raised in the parish than is sufficient for the maintenance of the inhabitants. The meal paid to the proprietors finds a market in the southern counties. The barley raised by the tenants is consumed by the licensed distillers. The countries of Badenoch, Strathspey, and Strathaven, generally have a demand for what meal can be spared; and the farmer often finds his account in selling oats, which are shipped at Garmouth or Buckie for the Frith of Forth.

Very few sheep are reared in the parish, and these of a very small size; and very little woollen cloth is made, except for home consumption.

Population.—The population of this parish has decreased about 80 since 1774; at that period the numbers were 700, and they are now 620, of all ages. The return to Dr Webster in 1755 was 953 souls. This decrease is owing to the enlargement of some farms, and to the number of subtenants being lessened, the farmer generally finding his account more in occupying the ground himself, than in letting it at a small advanced rent to others. The advance of wages, too, has
made

made the farmer contrive to labour with fewer servants. For 10 years preceding 1793, there were 66 males and 64 females baptised, and 41 couples married.

Ecclesiastical State, &c.—The church was built in 1617, and is at present in a very ruinous condition. There is no residing heritor, and the principal one is a minor, which will account for the circumstance now mentioned. The Earl of Fife is patron. The stipend fixed by decret in 1776 is 47 l. 5 s. Sterling, (including 50 merks Scotch for communion elements), and 54 bolls of oat-meal. The glebe measures 6 acres, including 2 acres of meadow grass. The manse was built in 1776. There are few dissenters of any description in the parish; 1 Roman Catholic, 1 Episcopal, and 15 Seceders*.

There is a parochial schoolmaster, whose salary is 12 bolls of meal, and 2 l. Sterling for acting as session clerk. The boys are taught reading, writing, and accounts. It was much the fashion formerly to instruct them in Latin, and send them to the University; but, whatever advantage this might be to the individual, it was a loss to the society, who was thereby drained of useful hands, that are now more profitably employed in agriculture and manufactures.

The funds for the support of the poor are, the weekly collections, the interest of 70 l. and the rent of a loft in the church,

* The present incumbent, who was settled in 1774, is the second Presbyterian minister in this place since the Revolution. His immediate predecessor, Mr Campbell, was settled in 1727, and died in 1773. The preceding minister, Mr Chalmers, was an Episcopal, and settled in 1682; and it is mentioned as a mark of the respectability of his character, and the moderation of the Presbytery, that, notwithstanding the heat of the times, he was permitted to enjoy his living, though he did not conform, till his death in 1727.

church, which, at an average, will amount to 10 l. yearly, by which 10 persons receive occasional supplies *.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The people are sober, industrious, and of good morals, and well affected to our present constitution.

There are no diseases peculiar to this country. The practice of inoculation is not yet introduced among them. In the course of 19 years, 8 children have died of the small-pox. No extraordinary instances of longevity have occurred here. Two persons died some years ago at the age of 90; and there are 4 now living upwards of 80.

The neighbouring hills supply the inhabitants with peat and turf; but much of their time in summer is consumed in preparing and leading them home. If the tax on coals be taken off, it will probably encourage the farmers to supply themselves with that article, and thereby they will have more time to devote to husbandry. The roads are more attended to, and kept in better repair, by the statute labour, in this than in any of the neighbouring parishes.

N U M.

* The price of every necessary of life has advanced very considerably since 1783; some of them have nearly doubled in value. Eggs, formerly 1 d. *per* dozen, are now 2 d.; hens 8 d. formerly 5 d.; butter 7 d. formerly 5 d. *per* lib. of 24 English ounces; cheese 5 s. *per* stone; beef, mutton, and pork, from 4 s. to 5 s. *per* stone. But the price of no article is so much felt, and so loudly complained of, as salt and leather, the taxes on which fall heavily on the middling and lower classes of people.

The clergy whose livings are fixed, suffer particularly by the advanced price of almost every article necessary in a family; but, if our Judges continue to grant augmentations to ministers on the same liberal principles they have done of late, it will in some degree remedy this inconveniency, and is the only circumstance that can enable them to maintain that respect in society which they have hitherto done.

NUMBER XIV.

UNITED PARISHES OF BRESSAY,
BURRA, AND QUARFF.

(Presbytery of Zetland.)

*By the Reverend Mr JOHN MENZIES.**Situation, Extent, &c.*

THE names of these united parishes are probably of Danish or Norwegian extraction, but the meaning cannot now be ascertained *. The island of Bressay is about 4 miles long, and 2 broad; it lies to the eastward of the main land of Zetland, being separated from it by Bressay Sound. This Sound forms one of the best harbours in the world. Here the Dutch herring fleet rendezvous about the middle of June; and here are sometimes to be seen a number of large vessels, with valuable cargoes. Adjoining to Bressay, and on the S. E. side of it, lies the small island of Noss, one of the finest and most fertile in Shetland. Quarff lies 6 miles S. W. from these islands, and is part of the main land. It is a valley, about two English miles long, and one broad; bounded on the E. by the sea, and part of the parish of Lerwick; on the W. by Cliff Sound, which divides it from the isles of Barra and Trondra; on the S. by Conisburgh; and on

* Only the termination *a* or *ay*, very common in Zetland and Orkney, denotes "surrounded by the sea."

on the N. by the parish of Tingwall. The islands of Burra and House are situated on the W. side of the main land, and separated from it by a narrow sound. They lie so near to one another, that there is a communication between them by a bridge. They are about 4 miles long, and nearly 1 broad. Havera, another small island belonging to this parish, is situated about half a mile to the southward of Burra and Papa, on the N. W. Breffay contains 366 merks of land, Quarff 93, Burra and Havera 241, in all 700 merks, besides outlets, which are not in the rentals. The pasture grounds are extensive, and feed great numbers of sheep, cows, oxen, and horses. In some places there are large meadows, which, in favourable seasons, produce tolerable crops of hay. The hills afford excellent peats in great plenty. The whole rent is about 4000 l Scotch. But the value of estates in this country is not to be estimated from the rents payable to the landlords. The fishing which their tenants are obliged to carry on for them, more than doubles it. Services are also demanded, which are sometimes commuted for money.

Climate, &c — The climate in this country is rather damp, but not unfavourable to health. There are no epidemical diseases here. Last summer, a slow fever, which has been brought in by a foreign ship, prevailed in Breffay, and has now got into Burra and Quarff. It is very infectious. The people could not procure proper nourishment to support them under it, and a considerable number died. Rheumatisms are very common, owing partly to the dampness of the air, and partly to the alternate heats and colds, to which the people are necessarily subjected in the prosecution of their business. Inoculation for the small-pox has been of late successfully used in these parishes. About two years ago, a young gentleman inoculated 132 in the isles of Burra and House,

House, some of whom were 40 years of age, and not one died. The people, though strongly attached to their old customs, submit to this operation with a degree of readiness which does them credit. The scurvy does not prevail so much here as in some of the other parishes of this country. Convulsion fits are unknown.

The coasts of these parishes are, for the most part, bold and rocky. We have no rivers. There are a few lakes and rivulets, in which excellent trout are sometimes caught. In Bressay there are 26 large fishing boats, in Quarff 5. They are fitted out at a considerable expence; and the average number of ling in a season for each boat may be about 300. There are, besides, a number of small boats. In Burra, Haverø, and Papa, they have 28 boats of a lesser size, and fitted out at little expence. In winter they fish for fillocks, small cod, haddocks, &c. A few tons of kelp are annually made from the sea ware.

Agriculture.—In the whole of these parishes there are not above 6 ploughs, and these of a very particular form, a description of which is given by the Reverend Mr Morrison of Delting. The farms are now so small, that the people cannot afford to keep ploughs. Besides, many of them are of opinion, that ground turned up with the spade produces richer crops than that which is ploughed. The soil of the cultivated parts of Bressay is a fine clay. One mode of improvement has been adopted by some of the people of this island, which, on account of its singularity, deserves to be mentioned. In the vicinity of the hills, where the moss is only one peat deep, they first take off the grass sods, lay them carefully aside, then dig up the peats; after which they lay the sods upon a fine clay bottom, press them down with their feet, and afterwards have good crops of grass and corn upon them.

them. Others, whose grounds are wet, have dug deep trenches, to dry and to divide their fields; and, by throwing the earth upon the ridges, greatly meliorate the soil, and raise 2 or 3 good crops without any manure. The soil of Quarff is likewise clay, and, in ordinary seasons, produces tolerable crops, though rather late, on account of the wetness of the ground. The soil of Burra is of different kinds. In some places it is sandy, in others a fine black earth. In good years, it produces grain sufficient for the consumption of the inhabitants. The people here manage their hay crop in a very absurd manner. They never cut it but when wet; they allow it to lie 2 or 3 weeks, even in the finest weather, and will not touch it, however dry, till it gets some showers, and is bleached by the rains. By this time the substance is gone. So obstinate are their prejudices on this head, that it is impossible to convince them of their error. The fishing is a great obstacle to improvements in agriculture, the chief object of the proprietors being to have as many fishermen upon their grounds as possible. The farms, consequently, are very small. Few leases are granted. Many services, the sad marks of slavery, are demanded. They must fish for their masters, who either give them a fee entirely inadequate to their labour and their dangers, or take their fish at a lower price than others would give. It is true, that, in years of scarcity, they must depend upon their landlords for the means of subsistence, and are often deep in their debt. But why not allow them to make the best of their situation? Why not let them have leases upon reasonable terms, and dispose of their produce to those who will give them the best price? Why not let them fish for themselves? Why should the laird have any claim except for the stipulated rent? Neither the climate nor the soil are favourable to improvements in
agriculture;

agriculture; but, with proper encouragement, much might be done.

Sheep, &c.—There are about 5000 sheep and 500 milch cows, besides oxen and young cattle, in these united parishes. The number of horses is great. They are small, but very hardy. Many of the sheep are of the best quality, and produce fine wool, which is made into stockings, some of which sell at a high price, and are reckoned the best of their kind by the merchants of Lerwick. The returns, however, to the maker are very small. By manufacturing this wool into cloth, the people would gain much more. Few of them seem to be acquainted with the proper method of making butter. Cheese is never made here. The time of preparing the ground, and sowing, is commonly from the middle of March to the 1st of May. The harvest is for the most part over by the end of September.

Population Table.

	<i>In Bressay and Noss.</i>	<i>In Quarff.</i>	<i>In Burra, Havera, & Papa.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Families	- 117	36	63	216
Males	- 309	77	173	559
Females	- 361	101	204	666
Under 10	- 175	44	99	318
From 10 to 20	114	35	88	237
From 20 to 50	271	67	138	476
From 50 to 70	80	28	38	146
From 70 to 80	24	2	12	38
Above 80	- 6	2	2	10
Total	- 670	178	377	1225

According

According to the registers of Bressay, there were 110 males and 116 females baptised, and 63 couples married, in 10 years preceding 1792. The registers of Burra and Quarff are in such disorder, that no extract of marriages and baptisms, to be depended upon, can be given from them.

The return to Dr Webster in 1755 was 1098 souls.

From the best information which could be obtained on this subject, it appears, that, within these 20 years, the number of inhabitants in Bressay and Quarff has increased at least 200. Burra has long continued stationary in this respect. In most countries, the increase of population is reckoned an advantage, and justly. It is, however, the reverse in the present state of Shetland. The farms are split. The young are encouraged to marry, without having any stock. The consequence is poverty and distress. Were manufactures established here, to employ the people, and enable them to procure a comfortable subsistence, their increased numbers would be pleasing to every patriotic mind; but, it is believed, that there is at present, in these islands, double the number of people they can properly maintain.

There are about 79 servants, of both sexes, in these parishes, the greatest part of which are employed in country affairs. There are 11 tailors, 2 smiths, 4 shoemakers, 2 carpenters, 1 joiner, 1 wheelwright. The people here discover great ingenuity in the different handicraft employments. Most of them are self-taught, and can work at different trades. Necessity has made them exert themselves.

Ecclesiastical State, &c.—The stipend is paid in butter and oil, with some money for boat-teind, and may be worth 65 l. It has not been augmented. The glebe is large. The manse was built in 1782, and last summer was completely repaired at a very considerable expence. There are 2 churches 10
English

English miles distant from one another. The one is in Bressay, very near the manse; the other is in Burra. Neither of them is in good order. The kirk of Burra is very antient, and has a large steeple; it seems to have been a Popish chapel. The heritors are 9 in number; but the greatest part of these have very small property in the ministry. Sir Thomas Dundas is patron. The present incumbent is Mr John Menzies, a bachelor, who was settled in May 1792. There is an established school in these parishes; and application has been made to the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge for a charity school to Burra and Quarff, which has been granted, though not yet erected. It is much to be lamented, that the education of youth is not more attended to in this country. The people discover a quickness of apprehension, and an aptness to learn, which deserve to be encouraged. Many of the young men go abroad, and such of them as have got a decent education, rise to preferment. The poor of Bressay have funds distinct from those of Burra and Quarff. These are managed by the different sessions. To the former belong the interest of 150 l. Scots, and the rent of 4 merks land, mortified by Mr William Humphry, formerly minister of these parishes. The latter have the interest of 20 l. Sterling, and the rents of 8 merks land, mortified by the same gentleman. These, with the collections, which are very small, afford them a scanty allowance*.

Miscellaneous

* Beef is sold at $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. *per* pound; a good sheep may cost 4 s.; chickens may be got at 2 d.; hens at 4 d.; and geese at 6 d. A farm maid servant has 10 s. a pair of shoes, and a shirt, *per annum*. No man-servant can be got for the whole year. A house-maid has from 20 s. to 25 s. *per annum*, besides some gratuities. Labourers must be maintained in the families where they work; their wages are 6 d. *per* day; for a mason, from 15 d. to 18 d.; a wright, 16 d.

We

Miscellaneous Observations.—The people are very hospitable and obliging; they are regular in their attendance upon the ordinances of religion. None of them have for many years been charged with any crime, which could lay them open to the cognizance of the laws of their country, one woman belonging to Bressay excepted, who, about 3 years ago, was convicted of coming and uttering Danish money, imprisoned and set on the pillory. They are not much disposed to industry; but the reason is obvious; they have no object to call forth their exertions. Convince them that it is their interest to labour, and they will approve themselves good and faithful workmen. They are immoderately fond of tea and snuff. For the sake of these superfluities, they will deny themselves many of the necessaries of life. They are rather expensive for their circumstances, particularly in the management of their marriages and funerals; and by these means they often contract debts which they can never discharge.

These united parishes enjoy very considerable advantages. Almost all the inhabitants of Lerwick are supplied with peats from the hills of Bressay, and almost the whole people of Shetland with slates from its excellent quarries. They have a good market for every article of provision. The fishing on the coast of Burra is carried on at a small expence. The fishermen set their lines in the evening, and draw them in the morning. Their winter fishings have been sometimes known
to

We have great numbers of plovers, snipes, linnets, starlings, and crows, but no muirfowl, hares, or partridges. There are many rabbits in the islands of Noss and Burra. The migratory birds are the chalders, which resembles a lapwing; they appear in March, and disappear in September. Kittiwakes come here in great numbers in the spring, hatch their young in the chits of the rocks, and go away, as it is supposed, to the coast of Jutland in autumn. We have also sea-parrots and cormorants.

to exceed their summer's. They have upon their coast a fine oyster scalp, from which they take large rich oysters. Hence they are, in general, in easy circumstances. Nor have the rents of their lands been raised for some centuries. The people of Quarff are frequently employed in transporting goods from the one side of the country to the other, which brings them in considerable sums.

To better the circumstances of the people, it is necessary to give them larger farms, long leases, and liberty to dispose of their produce to the best advantage. To employ those who have no farms, and are in a great measure idle, manufactories of woollen cloth and fishing-lines should be established. They should be taught to turn their raw hides to account, by tanning them. The women should learn to spin flax, by which they might probably earn 5 d. or 6 d. a day, instead of 1 d. or $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. which they now earn by knitting stockings. A linen manufactory might afterwards be erected with great advantage*.

Few

* There are several ruins of Pictish castles in this ministry, but too inconsiderable to merit a description here. There are also several perpendicular stones, about 9 feet high, erected, no doubt, for the purpose of commemorating some great event, but of which we have no account. One of them, however, in the island of Bressay, makes an excellent land-mark to ships coming into Bressay Sound. Near the island of Nofs, there is a rock or holm, perpendicular on all sides, and about 150 feet high. The opposite rock on the island is nearly of equal height, and distant from the other about 240 feet. This holm, which is quite level on the top, produces excellent grass, which maintains sheep during the summer season. Although it appeared inaccessible on all sides, the apparent richness of the grass, or, as some say, the vast quantities of sea-fowl which breed on it, induced the proprietor, many years ago, to endeavour to fall upon some means of passing between the island and it. Accordingly, a daring islander attempted to climb up, and succeeded. He fixed posts in the ground, about two feet and a half from each other, corresponding posts being fixed on the opposite

Few years pass in which ships are not cast away upon these dangerous coasts. Sailors unacquainted with the coast, especially in thick weather, and in dark nights, are ready to mistake the opening between the islands of Bressay and Nofs for the entrance to Bressay Sound, and, if they come too near the rocks, are in danger of being dashed to pieces. A light upon Nofs Head, which would be seen at a great distance, might prevent such disasters. It could be erected at no great expence. This matter certainly deserves the attention of Government.

The people here are all Presbyterians of the established Church of Scotland. Their language is the same with that of the inhabitants of North Britain. The names of places are derived from the Danish and Norwegian languages, and are said to be very expressive of the situation.

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opposite side. Ropes are stretched across, from the one side to the other, upon which a wooden cradle slides along, and affords a safe conveyance between the island and the holm. The man who first ascended the rock, would not take the benefit of returning in the cradle, but, attempting to return the same way he went up, fell, and was unfortunately killed. The reward which he was to have received from the laird, had he come back safe, was a horse, cow, sheep, &c. Sheep are now annually put into the holm in the beginning of the season, and taken out in autumn in excellent condition. Many of the sea-fowl which breed here are fine delicate eating.

NUMBER XV.

PARISH OF LESSUDDEN OR ST BOSWELLS.

(*Presbytery of Selkirk.—Synod of Merse and Teviotdale.—County of Roxburgh*)

By the Reverend Mr JOHN SCADE.

Origin of the Name.

A CONSIDERABLE village in this parish goes by the name of *Lessudden*, which it is supposed to have got from its having been once the residence of one Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne. *Lis* being a Scoto-Celtic word, signifying *residence*, *Lis-Aidan*, the residence of Aidan, by a careless pronunciation, might in time become what it now is, *Lessudden*. Aidan was educated in the monastery of Icolmkill, and is mentioned in terms of respect by Bede, in his ecclesiastical history *. St Boisil was a disciple of St Cuthbert, and for some time belonged to the monastery of Old Melrose, in the neighbourhood of this place.

Extent, Productions, &c.—This parish, which is situated on the banks of the Tweed, within 10 miles of Kelso, 5 of Melrose,

* Such as are disposed to inquire farther into the life of Bishop Aidan, may consult Dr Mackenzie's lives of the Scotch writers, vol. 1. p. 359. Bede, Hay's Reliquae Sacrae, and Spottiswood's Church History. But the more general name of the parish, and the proper name of the church, is *St Boswells*, from St Boisil a French monk, who is said to have founded it about the beginning of the seventh century.

rose, and 7 of Jedburgh, is from E. to W. about 3 miles long. Towards the E. it is narrow, but becomes broader to the westward; and, at the broadest, may be about a mile and a half, or near 2 miles wide. The soil, in general, is good; that which lies on the banks of the Tweed, and in sundry other places of the parish, is fine; and even the grounds which are the worst, are capable of great improvement, by the use of lime or marl. Of late, much has been done, and the spirit of cultivation continues to operate. The expence of improving with lime is great, as the lime must come either from the Lothian kilns, or those on the border of England. Each cart-load, drawn by 2 horses, and consisting of 12 fir-lots, costs from 10s. to 12s. Six, eight, or nine of these cart-loads, according to the nature of the ground, are employed upon an acre; but this expence is many times repaid with interest, from the melioration of the land. Fine wheat has been raised on some pieces of land in this parish, which, less than 40 years ago, were thought incapable of producing such a valuable article. Wheat is raised in due proportion to the extent of the farms every where in the parish, which, in many places, yields to none in Teviotdale in point of quality. In the whole, from 450 to 500 bolls are raised annually. Barley is cultivated in proportional plenty, and with success; and the same may be said of oats and pease. On the lands near Tweedside, the cold seed pease are commonly sown, and as commonly productive of fine crops. In sundry places, turnips either are or may be sown with advantage; they are found to grow to a good size. The whole lands are remarkably well adapted for yielding fine crops of grass.

The principal market for the wheat raised here is Dalkeith. Peebles furnishes a demand for a good deal. A considerable quantity of the barley is disposed of at Melrose, some at Dalkeith and elsewhere, beside what is ground with pease into bread.

bread-meal, and sold both at home and in other places adjacent. The pease are in request, and find various purchasers; and, with respect to the oats, the manufacture of them into meal, and the conveyance of it to the Lothian markets, is an article of trade.

Rent, &c.—As in other places, so here, land has risen, and is upon the rise. The valued rent is 4330l. 18s. 2d. Scotch. The real rent it is not so easy to ascertain exactly, as several cultivate their own lands, but it is probably from 1600l. to 1800l. Sterling.

St Boswell's Fair.—St Boswell's fair is held on a large green of the same name, through which passes the turnpike road from the Lothians to Jedburgh, &c. It holds in the name of his Grace the Duke of Buccleugh, and is said to be the greatest in the south of Scotland. It is held annually on the 18th of July, or on the Monday following, if the 18th fall on Sunday; but its happening either on the Monday or Saturday, is very justly thought to occasion much inattention to the religious observance of the Sabbath. The evil has been complained of, but no remedy has yet been applied. If the day be fine, the concourse of people is immense; and, whatever it be, business brings a great multitude, of which some come from a very considerable distance. Sheep are a principal article of commerce. Great flocks of sheep of all denominations are brought from all parts of the adjacent country, and generally find so ready a market, as to be disposed of early in the morning, at latest in the forenoon. Black cattle are also numerous; and the show of horses has usually been so fine, that buyers come from many places both of England and Scotland. Linen cloth is another article. Great numbers of people throughout the neighbouring country employ

ploy themselves during winter in spinning; they endeavour to get their webs ready against the fair, where they are pretty sure of a market, though not always of a sufficient recompence for their expences and labour; nevertheless, upon the whole, they get such prices as encourage them to be industrious in the same line. The prices, according to the quality of the cloth, are from 10 d. and 1 s. to 3 s. 6 d. 4 s. and 4 s. 6 d. *per* yard. Some provide themselves in linen at this fair, alleging that they can furnish themselves cheaper and better at it, than they could do by manufacturing at home. This may possibly be true; for, in genteel families, the expence of maintaining the workers will be higher than the spinster in a cottage, while the skill and care bestowed on the work are equal. Booths, (or, as they are here called, *crains*), containing hardware and haberdashery goods, are erected in great numbers at the fair, and stored with such articles as suit the generality. The money turned in the course of the day at this fair is guessed to be from 8000 l. to 10,000 l. Sterling. The Duke of Buccleugh receives a certain rate or toll upon sheep, cattle, and all other commodities brought into the fair for sale. Old sheep pay 1 merk Scotch *per* score, lambs one half of that sum, and so on. This toll is sometimes collected by people appointed for the purpose; but it is more commonly let to some individual for such a sum of money as can be agreed on. The highest at which it ever was let was 53 l. the lowest 33 l. and the average is supposed to be about 38 l.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church, between 3 and 4 years ago, was ruinous, unpleasant, extremely cold, and injurious to health; but, by a thorough repair, has been made one of the best in the country. The expence incurred was 100 l. Sterling. The manse and offices are quite new, having been finished in summer 1791. The church and manse are in a pleasant

pleasant situation on the banks of the Tweed; but the church is not in the most central situation for the conveniency of the parish. The stipend consists of 54 bolls of oats, 26 bolls of bear or barley, both of the measure of Dryburgh Abbey, and 24 l. 6s. in money. The common measure of this country is the Teviotdale boll, which contains 15 pecks; but the Abbey boll contains only 14, which reduces the vic-tual in the stipend to 50 bolls of oats, and 24 of barley, Teviotdale measure. The money stipend, 24 l. 6s. arises chiefly out of a conversion, by which the incumbent is a great loser. The glebe consists of about 4 Scotch acres, and the land exceedingly good. In addition to this, the incumbent has some banks, in name of a grafs glebe; but the greatest part of them being dangerous for either horse or cow to feed on, no material advantage is derived from them. A process to procure some small addition to the living is in contemplation *.

School.—There is an established schoolmaster in Lessfudden, where he has a good comfortable house, and teaches reading of English, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, mensuration, &c. with the principles and the books used by beginners in the Latin tongue. Beside the school wages, he has a legal salary of 100 marks Scotch; but, upon his application, the heritors, at a meeting lately held, unanimously agreed to augment his salary to 100 l. Scotch; which addition to his living, they have given him ground to believe, will be continued

* In the bank of the grafs glebe next the Tweed, there are sundry springs of water, one of which is reported to be of a chalybeate quality; but no experiments which are now remembered, have been made to ascertain its properties. It has, however, been long, and still is, used in scorbutic cases, some say with great success; and it is in the recollection of many, that sundry people have thought themselves so much benefited by it, that they made a point of using it either on the spot, or of having it brought to them.

nued whilst he continued to merit their approbation as he had done. The schoolmaster is session-clerk, clerk to the heritors in their meetings, and collector of such sums as they have occasion to assess themselves in, for each of which offices he has a certain allowance. Fifty scholars, at an average, attend the school through the year*.

Population.—There is no reason to believe that this parish ever was very populous; perhaps its present inhabitants are as numerous as at any period of which we are well informed. The village of Lessudden, indeed, was once more populous than it is now; but then, in several other parts of the parish, there was scarce any population at all. The return to Dr Webster in 1755 was 309 souls. The whole number at present, inclusive of children, amount to about 500. Of these, about 300 reside in Lessudden, and about 200 in the other parts of the parish. The people, in general, are of a sober and frugal turn both of mind and manners. In Lessudden there may be from 85 to 90 children, and elsewhere in the parish from 50 to 55.

The births, taken at an average for the last 5 years, are 14 annually, the marriages 5, and the burials 10.

The poor on the parish-roll, at present, are fewer than for some years past, being only 3 in number; they receive from 1 s. to 2 s. *per week*, which is raised by an assessment every half year upon the proprietors of land and their tenants, and, at an average for the last 10 years, has amounted to about 14 l. 12 s. *per annum*. The money collected weekly at the church,

* The wages allowed by the records of the parish are, for teaching English, 1 s. *per quarter*; for English and writing, 1 s. 6 d.; for English, writing, and arithmetic, 2 s.; and no particular sum *per quarter* is condescended upon for Latin.

church, (which is from 5 l. to 6 l. in the year), together with what is brought in by the mort-cloth and the dues upon marriage proclamations, is employed by the kirk-session to give occasional assistance to the necessitous not on the poor's roll, and at times to add to the comfort of those who receive the bounty of the heritors.

Fuel.—This necessary of life we are obliged to procure at an expence which with difficulty we are able to afford. There are many cases in which a moderate competency of firing, to put over the severity of the winter, takes most of the money which a family of decent working people, after maintaining themselves, can be supposed to save. All honest, though humble shifts, are therefore made to provide and save fuel. Coals are the common, and indeed the cheapest firing. They are brought to this place either from the collieries in Lothian, which are at the distance of 27 or 28 miles, or from Etal in Northumberland, which is 24 or 25 miles distant. But the greatest part of what is used here, comes from the Lothians, and is brought by the returning carts, which carried from home oat-meal or grain to Dalkeith market. A cart with 2 horses commonly brings 14 cwt. of coals, which cost the purchaser 1 s. *per* cwt. and yet the driver is said to have but poor profits. From this almost unsupportable expence, which is more likely to increase than decrease, perhaps nothing can deliver this part of the country, unless the canal which has been spoken of as intended to come to Ancrum bridge, should be carried into effect. To this scarcity, and consequent high price of firing, may be imputed in part the too common complaint of rheumatism, or what some of the people call the *pains*, which are often very distressing, and too often not well treated by the patients themselves.

Miscellaneous Observations.—There are in this parish 102 horses, and 279 black cattle. Of the latter, 90 are milch cows. The number of sheep cannot be exactly ascertained, as it varies in different years, according as the proprietors and farmers find it convenient to keep them.

The Tweed, which runs close by Lessfudden, in addition to the beauty and pleasantness which it gives to the country, is likewise productive of advantages. Between this place and Berwick, is a distance of more than 30 miles; and yet not only here, but much higher up the water, fine and large salmon are caught in the season, and sold in the country at the moderate price of from 2 d. to 3 d. *per lib.*; but the greatest part is bought up by people who find it their interest to carry them elsewhere. Salmon of 28 lib. weight have been caught; but from 6 to 18 lib. is the ordinary weight of those taken hereabouts; so that, at the proper times, the neighbourhood is seldom at a loss for a small salmon, which proves a great convenience to families, and contributes to the bettering of the circumstances of those concerned in the fishing.

NUMBER XVI.

PARISH OF NEWBATTLE.

(*Presbytery of Dalkeith.—Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale.—County of Mid Lothian.*)

By the Reverend Mr JAMES BROWN.

Extent, Soil, &c.

THE outlines of the parish of Newbattle form an irregular triangle, the base of which passes in a S. W. direction from Fordel-house to Newbyres-tower. The other two sides meet in a point a little to the N. E. of the church. Its utmost length and breadth may each of them measure 4 English miles.

There is a great diversity in the soil of this parish. In the valley which lies on the N. E. quarter, and which conceals, till a near approach, the church, the village, and family-seat of the Marquis of Lothian, the soil consists of a rich loam, and is in many places 4 feet deep. As it rests upon a stratum of sharp gravel, the surface is speedily drained; and hence the air of this place is much better than might be expected from its position. From the valley the country rises southward to its summit, in the course of two miles. This hill traverses the whole parish. The soil on the N. side grows worse as one ascends, shifting to a wet and whitish clay; but, when cultivated with proper spirit and skill, it carries very ample crops. The southern slope of this elevated track

track shows a surface marshy and unproductive. In this parish, indeed, the extremes of fertility and of barrenness border upon each other; for, on the S. W. quarter, there are many hundred acres worth scarcely half a crown each of rent; while in the valley of Newbattle there are several inclosures, let for tillage, at 4 l. an acre.

Upon the best lands, the ordinary rotation is, 1st, wheat after fallow; 2d, pease and beans; 3d, barley, sown down with grafs seeds; 4th and 5th, hay crops; 6th, oats; after which the ground is fallowed again, or cropped, where the soil is light, with potatoes. In the upper grounds, which are swampy and exposed, the lands are kept several years in grafs. On its being broken up, a crop of oats is taken; this is succeeded by a green crop; after which, the most common method is to sow down oats with grafs seeds*.

Minerals.—Limestone and coals are found in abundance in this parish, the whole of which may be said to be under-laid with them. The coal, particularly, produces every year above 1000 l. of free profit; and yet we felt as much as many others, the recent scarcity of that necessary article. This evil was not, as some have supposed, an effect of the increasing demand. The truth is, that the colliers can earn in three days as much as may support them very fully through the week; they become dissipated and untractable; they insist

* Upon the highest point of the hill already mentioned, and which is 680 feet above the level of the sea, there are the remains of an antient inclosure, well known by the name of the *Roman Camp*. Being crowded with firs, it is of difficult access, and cannot be examined with a proper degree of accuracy. It is of a quadrangular figure, with an opening to the S. E. It contains nearly 3 acres of ground, and seems, from its position, to have been wisely chosen, as a place both of defence and of observation.

list upon making their own terms; and, if the abuse of that liberty which was lately extended to them, could be admitted as a sufficient reason for abridging it, many restrictions might be suggested which would be useful both to the public and themselves.

Population.—According to Dr Webster's report, the numbers in this parish, in the year 1755, amounted to 1439 souls. By an account received from the former incumbent, they consisted, in the 1779, of 1670 souls; and, from a minute enumeration made of the inhabitants in March 1793, the exact state of the population is 606 males, and 689 females, or 1295 souls; of whom 1017 are of the established Church, and 278 of the Secession.

Hence it is evident, that, for some years past, the numbers of the people have been rapidly decreasing; nor is it difficult to assign sufficient causes for this uncomfortable fact. The farms now cast into larger divisions, and tilled by servants, many of whom are single. The village of Newbattle, which was once very populous, has been left to languish under many discouragements. The lands of several proprietors and feuers have been bought up by the family of Lothian, with a view to the extension of their pleasure grounds and estate; and not a few, who once found employment in this place, have gone into situations more favourable to their industry, and left the different villages of the parish in a neglected and decaying state.

The births, at an average of 10 years, amount annually to 28; the deaths, taken at the same average, to 32; and the marriages to 13. Thus it appears, that the number of burials is as 8 to 7, above the number of births; but, when it is considered, that several parents neglect the registration of their children's names, and that many also who have left
the

the parish, are brought back to be interred with their ancestors, these circumstances are perhaps sufficient to account for this unfavourable balance.

Poor, Ecclesiastical State, and Schools.—There are 20 persons, at a medium, who receive a monthly supply from the kirk-session; they draw from 2 s. to 2 s. 6 d. each; but, as the annual contributions, dues, and fines included, seldom exceed 34 l. there has been a necessity, upon two different occasions, of supplying the deficiency by an assessment.

The church, which was built in 1727, has an agreeable air of neatness and propriety; and the manse having undergone a late repair, is at present in very good condition. The stipend, as augmented in 1789, consists of 8 bolls of wheat, 24 bolls of barley, 24 bolls of oats, and 60 l. in money; and the glebe, which lies at some distance from the manse, contains 6 acres of excellent ground.

The school was carried, many years ago, from this village to another, which, though nearer to the center of the parish, is found inconvenient, on account of its remoteness from the most populous and frequented quarters. It is attended by about 45 scholars, whose wages, if well paid, would amount to 10 l. The schoolmaster's salary, and his emoluments as session-clerk, may bring 12 l. or 14 l. more; a provision, it must be granted, inadequate to the support of a man of merit in an important profession.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The farmers of this parish, though reduced in point of numbers, have improved, on the other hand, in their consequence and character; and their mode, both of thinking and living, is much more liberal than that of their predecessors. The lower orders, when their manners are considered, are likewise entitled to a favourable report.

report. They are, for the most part, industrious, which procures them a competence, and frugal, which preserves them in the possession of this blessing ; after which, it is unnecessary to add, that they are, in general, satisfied with their condition.

Newbattle Abbey, the seat of the Marquis of Lothian, is a large modern building ; and the plan of it, especially within, discovers the taste and judgment of the architect. In the library are several manuscripts in folio, written upon vellum, in the Saxon character ; and every page of them is adorned with pictures, emblematic of the respective subjects of which they treat. Of these books, the most highly finished are,

Jean Boccace des cas des nobles Hommes et Femmes, 1409.

John Tikyt hymni.

Titus Livius, per P. Berceun.

Augustin de la Cité de Dieu.

And, in all of them, the figures are coloured and gilded with so much delicacy and richness, as to afford a very interesting specimen of the labour and elegance with which they have been executed. These manuscripts had, in former times, belonged to the Abbey, the monks of which were of the Cistercian order. It was founded and endowed by David I. A wall surrounded it, which is almost entire, and retains the name of the *Monkland wall*. The modern house is raised upon the spot which was formerly occupied by the monastery, and stands surrounded by a level lawn, containing about 30 acres of ground. It is watered, on the one side, by the river South Esk, which, after toiling through the rocks of Cockpen, flows along the park in a quiet stream, and is over-hung with flourishing plantations. On the other side it is skirted by a waving line of woods, which, complying with the ascents and swellings of the banks, are seen rising above one another, and exhibit a beautiful variety of shades.

At

At the east end, it is terminated by an aged bridge, rudely built, and overspread with ivy; ranges of trees, in the opposite direction, close at a proper distance into vistas: while the eye, in wandering over the beauties of the scene, is caught by the simple spire of the parish church, and by the smoke, which, mounting from the adjacent village, lingers among the tops of the trees.

In the bosom of the park are many single trees, which make a venerable and majestic appearance. One of them a beech, at a yard above the ground, measures 19 feet in circumference; the distance between the tips of its extreme branches is 108 feet; its trunk, before it begins to spread, rises to the height of 22 feet, and it contains, including its principal limbs, 710 cubic feet of wood. And yet this tree does not greatly exceed the dimensions of many others in the parks. All of them, in their proper season, put forth a close and vigorous foliage; nor can any thing but a climate, and soil the most favourable, account for their rising, and spreading to such a size. From the same causes, the art of gardening is carried on very successfully around us. Green peas and cherries are pulled in this place, in the end of May, and beginning of June; and, in a good season, the finer kinds of fruits arrive, without forcing, at their maturity and flavour.

NUMBER XVII.

PARISH OF RUTHWELL.

(*Presbytery of Annan.—County and Synod of Dumfries.*)

By the Reverend Mr JOHN CRAIG.

Name, Extent, &c.

SO far back as the fourteenth century, this parish is called, in a charter by Thomas Randolph Earl of Murray, to his nephew Sir William Murray, *Ryval*, and that name is continued in all succeeding charters to Sir William's descendants. This, however, has been changed in more modern times to Ruthwell, or more probably Ruthwald. Wald or wold in Saxon signifying a wood; the appellation is properly applied, there being still extensive natural woods in the parish; and, from the number of trees found in the mosses, it is evident that, at a remote period, they were much more considerable. The parish extends from E. to W. along the Solway Frith, about 6 miles in length, and the broadest part is not more than 3 miles: It is bounded on the E. by the parish of Cumniertrees; on the S. by the Frith; on the W. by the Water of Lochar, which divides it from Caerlaverock; and on the N. by the parishes of Dalton and Mousewald. The land rises in a gentle acclivity, from the sea to the end of the ridge called Dalton Bank, which begins here, and terminates

minates in the parish of Tinwald, a few miles to the northward, separating the two vallies of Nith and Annan.

Soil, Climate, &c.—The soil, though in some places shallow and inclined to sand, is, in general, when properly manured and managed, sufficiently fertile; and, as the exposure is good, the crops are early, a singular advantage in this part of the country. Situated upon the sea, the air is of course moist, but by no means unhealthy. Many persons from different parts of the country repair here in summer for the benefit of bathing, and sea air. The sea has rather receded from the Scotch side of the Frith of late years, and the tides do not rise to the same height they did formerly, so that the land has gained considerably, and large tracks of green merse now appear, where the tides flowed over a surface of sand. It was, some time ago, in the contemplation of Lord Stormont, the proprietor of these lands, to attempt an embankment for recovering a considerable track of these flat sands, and preventing their being inundated, as is done in Holland, but the violence of the tides discouraged the undertaking, and nature is herself now performing what art was to have accomplished; the green ground or merse extending almost 2 mile further than it did some years ago. At the mouth of the Lochar there is a small port, where barks and little coasting vessels load and deliver coals and grain.

Population.—The parish is the property of four heritors, (but much the greatest part of it belongs to the Viscount of Stormont,) of these only two are resident. The number of souls is 1061, whereof 519 are males, and 542 females. The inhabitants have increased within this last twenty years in the proportion of five to three, which may be ascribed first to the division of large farms into smaller possessions, and particularly

particularly the extensive track called the Mains of Comlongan, consisting of above 2000 acres, formerly kept for pasture; and, secondly, to the lime quarries lately discovered near Comlongan, which have given employment to many labourers; for whose accommodation Lord Stormont has built a small village upon the side of the military road, where a garden and a little possession of land is inclosed and annexed to each dwelling house.—The return to Dr Webster in 1755 was only 599 souls.

Ecclesiastical State, &c.—The church is an ancient fabric, perhaps now the most so of any in this part of the country; it is a long building, remarkably narrow, and has a projecting aisle or wing joined to it, which was formerly the burial place of the Murrays of Cockpool, and is now of the family of Stormont. The stipend is 76 l. Sterling yearly, and is paid in money. The glebe consists of 36 acres, a great part of which was laid off to the minister at the division of a common where he had a servitude. The manse is large and commodious, and built of brick about sixty years ago. The Viscount of Stormont is patron.—The poor are not numerous, and are supported from the weekly collections in the church; where these prove deficient, a voluntary charitable contribution is made by the inhabitants, as often as they are called upon, and the supply received upon such occasions is always so ample as to answer the immediate wants or necessities of the poor, whether arising from dearth of provisions, or other incidental causes. There is a good school in the parish, where children are taught Latin, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, navigation, and other branches of education; and as some come from distant parts, they are boarded in the schoolmaster's house, which is fitted up with suitable accommodations. The salary is only 100 merks Scots.

Villages

Villages and Roads.—Ruthwell, in which a privilege of holding markets and fairs was given by the old charters to the family of Cockpool, is the only village in the parish. It is a long straggling place, through which the high road from Dumfries to Annan passed, before the military road was made. The houses were formerly all built of clay; but these have lately been pulled down, and the whole rebuilt at the expence of Lord Stormont with stone and slates; the street has also been enlarged, and laid out in a straight line.—The high road from Portpatrick to England, made by the military at the expence of government, runs through this parish from E. to W. And, in consequence of an act of Parliament lately passed, another road was last year made to the northward, and running almost parallel to the military road, which shortens the distance between Annan and Dumfries something more than a mile. Tolls are now levied upon both roads.

Manufactures, Fisheries, &c.—No species of manufacture in the linen or woollen branches are carried on in this parish; but, in the summer season, the people upon the sea coast employ themselves in making a kind of coarse salt, which answers the common uses tolerably well. They practise the following method: When the tides have risen very high, and covered the sands for three or four days, a white crust is left upon the sand, from which all the fresh water particles are exhaled by the heat of the sun during the neap tides, and the remanent substance appears to the eye like pounded crystal. This crust is pared off by a machine formed like a roller, only the moveable part of the roller is here immoveable, and has projecting from it, about half an inch longitudinally, a piece of thin iron, which scrapes up the crust into heaps, together with a portion of the sand. The whole is carried off
in

in carts to the shore, and piled up in one heap. When a sufficient quantity has been collected, the people dig a little square pit in the ground, at one end whereof they form, with tough strong clay raised a foot above the surface, a basin 18 feet long, 3 in width, and 3 deep, which rises, from the mouth of the little pit, in a gentle ascent to the further end; the bottom of the basin is laid with square white coloured peats, and above these, clean turf sods cut from the moor with the green sides up, are placed, joined as close as possible to one another and to the sides of the basin. After thus preparing the basin, a layer about a foot and a half thick, taken from the heap of sand formerly laid up, is placed above the sods, and sea water being poured upon it, filtrates through the whole mass, and, when it comes to the lower end of the basin, runs off by a small tube into the pit or reservoir. When the saline particles of the sand in the basin are by this means carried off, it is removed, and new sand put in, which is managed in the same manner. The proper strength of the liquor in the reservoir is ascertained by its carrying an egg; and when this happens, it is boiled in lead or iron pans until a residuum of dry salt remains, which is taken up in wicker baskets; a liquid, something of the appearance of oil, runs from it, which the people call salt droppings, and esteem a good remedy for rheumatic complaints and sprains. The salt thus made is neither so white, nor so strong as that from the salt pans. A measure of it weighing about 24 lb. is sold for a shilling; and, in consequence of an exemption or grant by one of the kings of Scotland, no duty is paid for it; notwithstanding which, the tenants on the shore who practise this manufacture are supposed to be no considerable gainers.

Minerals, &c.—At Brow, in this parish within tide mark, is a chalybeate spring, the water of which is light and agreeable,

able, creates an appetite, and has been found beneficial in stomachic complaints. When mixed with brandy, it changes to an inky colour, and a piece of silver put into it, is soon covered with a black varnish. Many resort to the Brow in the warm season, believing the well water, and sea bathing, specifics for all diseases. Some appearances of coal have been found in different parts, but the expectations of those, who have attempted to sink a pit, have always been frustrated, although it must be admitted, that the strata in those places are similar to what is met with in Cumberland, on the opposite shore, where coal is found in great plenty; the want of success, in this research upon the Scotch side, may therefore proceed from the inefficacy of the trials, and probably the unskillfulness and knavery of those employed in making them. Limestone was accidentally discovered in the neighbourhood of Comlongan about 10 years ago, and the discovery being prosecuted, and the quarry opened by instructions from Lord Stormont, all his Lordships tenants and the inhabitants of Mousewald, Toothorwald, and Tinwald, have from hence been supplied with burnt lime, and raw limestone, which has contributed to the progress of improvement *.

Disposition of the Inhabitants, &c.—The temper of the people is benevolent and charitable, of which an instance has been already

* The air, as has been observed, is moist, and often foggy, which, it is supposed, proceeds partly from the vicinity of the sea, and partly from extensive mosses and deep bogs that are interspersed throughout the parish. Intermitting fevers prevail here sometimes in the after harvest, and are accompanied with pains in the bones, and a lowness and dejection of spirit, but are seldom mortal. Upon the whole, the people, notwithstanding the humidity of the air, are healthy and vigorous, though no remarkable instances of longevity have lately occurred. The people are in general of the middle size, though some may reach six feet.

already mentioned in their voluntary contributions for support of the poor, when the weekly collections in the church prove insufficient. Living upon the shore, many of the young men betake themselves to a seafaring life; those who continue at home, are farmers or labourers, with a few artizans, and are tolerably industrious. The farms are in general small, and many of the farmers are besides jobbers or dealers in cattle, which they carry to the English market; they also breed and rear many swine, disposing of the hams in England or Edinburgh, where they are much prized; thus trade is attended with considerable profits. The number of farmers may be about 70, but among these are included sundry persons who have small possessions of a few acres. There are in the parish 3 blacksmiths, 6 joiners, 5 shoemakers, 2 cloggers, 12 weavers, 6 tailors, 1 tinker, and about 75 day labourers; the wages of those last are from 10 d. to 1 s. 2 d. *per* day, and vary according to the length of the day. The wages of men servants who are lodged and maintained, are from 7 l. to 9 l. yearly, of women 3 l. or 3 l. 10 s. None of the natives of this parish are seceders from the established church; but two persons who lately settled here are antiburghers*.

Fish, &c.—The fish upon the coast, are flounders of a large size and good quality, herrings in the autumn, and cod and skate during

* The wood-lark and bulfinch, birds extremely rare in Scotland, are met with in the extensive wood of Comlongan: They are both natives. They make their nest among the long grass in the wood, and are, of late, observed to have much encreased: There also appeared in those woods, a bird of a new species, of the size of a thrush, the back of a light brown colour, the head light gray, and the breast almost white, the wings inclining to black, having a regular row of small white spots across the middle of each feather, the bill very short, as thick as a mans finger next the head, and the tail has strong short feathers. This description agree much with the size and figure of the Virginia nightingale or red bird, from which, however, it differs materially in the colour, and the want of the beautiful tuft on the head.

during the winter. The flounders are caught in what is called a pock-net, and sometimes the people grope for them with their feet in the sand, and kill them with a spear; they frequently weigh from 3 to 7 pounds, and are remarkably delicate. The herrings are caught in long-nets, extended upon poles fixed in the sand. They are chiefly carried to Dumfries market, and are sold, in a plentiful fishing, so low as 8 d. or 6 d. *per* hundred; they have however been scarce on the Scotch side for these four years past, which the fishers ascribe to the channels being altered, and running nigher the English shore than formerly. Cod and skate are taken in so small quantities, that they scarce deserve to be noticed; on the opposite coast, they are very plentiful, and are brought across the Frith, and sold proportionably cheap.

Soil and Productions, &c.—The soil is various, according to the situation. Along the shore it is dry and sandy, and there is a considerable tract of moss; further inland, it is a strong clay, and towards its boundaries on the E. and N. is a gravel; towards the W. there is a bed of coarse free stone, intermixed with which some limestone appears. About 694 acres are employed in the culture of oats, 132 for barley, 40 for wheat, 66 for potatoes, 30 for turnip, and 30 or 40 are laid down with grass feeds. The little flax that is raised, is used by the inhabitants; a few farmers in the west side of the parish, have, within these late years only, sustained some loss in their crops of oats, by a sort of blight or blasting, which is first discernible in the end of July, and, beginning in the middle of the field of corn, extends itself on all sides, till it has spread over the whole, the ear is dried up, and the stalk breaks down, and is not worth the trouble of reaping. Different kinds of manure have been employed, without effect, for the cure of this malady, and the people have also ineffectually

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ly altered their mode of ploughing. It is fortunate, that this blight never attacks barley, wheat, or potatoes. The crops raised in the parish, not only supply the inhabitants, but afford a surplus of barley and potatoes for exportation. The manures employed are lime and dung, and near the shore the farmers lead and lay upon their lands considerable quantities of sea fleech or sand, dug up within sea mark, which is used to great advantage in the mossy soils, where lime is of no benefit *.

Valuation

* The only ancient building in the parish is the castle of Comlongan, the seat of the Viscount of Stormont, which, although erected some centuries ago, is still entire. It was a considerable place of strength before the Union of the Crowns, is 60 feet square and 90 feet high, with battlements, and port holes in the walls; the walls are of a sufficient thickness to admit of small apartments within them, and the hall and larger rooms are still occupied, as the roof is standing.—The castle of Comlongan was for many ages the residence of the Murrays of Cockpool, a family of great eminence in Annandale, as some of them were wardens of the western border, and Cuthbert Murray of Cockpool was one of the commanders of the Scotch army, that defeated the Duke of Albany and the Earl of Douglas, when they invaded Scotland. John Murray, a younger son of this family, having acquired a great estate, as well in Scotland as in England and Ireland, was created, by King James the 6th, Earl of Annandale; he afterwards succeeded to the family estate, and resided in the castle of Comlongan; but the title became extinct upon the death of his son without children, and Lord Stormont, who is heir of line, became proprietor of a considerable part of the estate. His Lordships grandfather, father of Lord Mansfield, resided here many years; and, for his accommodation, added sundry buildings to the castle, which are now possessed by his factor. The remains of an old castle are also to be seen at Cockpool, within half a mile of Comlongan, which was likewise a seat of the family. In the church yard of Ruthwell, a very curious ancient monument appears, although now broken into two or three fragments, which, however, have all been preserved. The whole, when entire, seems to have had the form of an obelisk, and was about 18 feet long; and the side of each square is ornamented with figures, in relievo, descriptive of sacred story.

Our

Valuation and Real Rent.—The lands in this parish stand valued in the cefs books, at 2905 merks Scotch. The real rents amount to about 1600 l. Sterling, and have been greatly advanced within these few years, by the opening of the lime-stone quarry at Comlongan, and the inclosures and improvements made by Lord Stormont and the other proprietors.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The division of the numerous commons in Annandale, the discovery and application of lime as a manure, and the system of inclosing, begun in this and other parishes, have produced the very extraordinary rise of rents, which have taken place within the last twenty years; and which, so far from injuring or impoverishing the tenantry,

Our Saviour is represented in different attitudes, and at the bottom of one of the sides, his crucifixion is discernible; the borders of each of the sides are inscribed with runick characters, much more ancient perhaps than the figures sculptured upon the stone. Tradition says, that this obelisk, in remote times, was set up at a place called Priestwoodside near the sea, in order to assist the vulgar, by sensible images, to form some notions of religion, but was drawn from thence by a team of oxen belonging to a widow, and placed in the church-yard, where it remained till the reformation, when, by an act of the General Assembly, it was ordered to be thrown down and broken, as a remnant of idolatry. This piece of antiquity has been often visited, and examined by travellers and antiquarians, and a description and draught of it is given by Mr Pennant in his tour, and by Gordon in his *Itinerarium Septentrionale*, where sundry other particulars relating to it may be found.

At a place called Kirkstyle in this parish, ancient records set forth, that there was very long ago a preceptory belonging to the knights of St. John, where they had a place of worship and a burying ground, and that they were also possessed of property to a great extent in the neighbourhood, which, upon the extinction of that order, came into the possession of the Murrays of Cockpool; but we have no certain accounts either from tradition, history, or writings, when this happened. Some tomb stones are still to be seen in the parish church-yard, on which the insignia and arms of the order are cut.

try, have contributed to their prosperity; as it is a certain fact that at the present period they are better lodged, better clothed, and have the necessaries of life in much greater abundance, than when their rents were trifling: yet the general spirit of improvement in agriculture, which now pervades Scotland, has not made so rapid a progress as might have been expected in Annandale. The purchase of the Isle of Man, however, and the stop put by that means to smuggling, in which all the people living upon the Solway Frith were more or less concerned, have wrought a surprising change on their industry, as well as improved their morals. Although French brandy has, in consequence of these alterations, almost wholly disappeared, its place is now occupied by whisky, a spirit equally fatal to the health of the people, though not so hurtful to the revenue. This accursed beverage is retailed in numbers of tippling houses, and coming so low as 1 s. 6 d. the Scotch pint, is greedily swallowed by the people, though it saps their constitutions, and ruins their health. When the proposed wise measures of allowing coals to be imported duty free, and laying an additional tax upon Scotch spirits, are adopted by government, it is to be hoped that the more wholesome liquor brewed from good malt will again be drunk by the people, and their attachment to whisky weakened, if not destroyed.

NUMBER XVIII.

PARISH OF GLENDOVAN.

(*Presbytery of Auchterarder.—Synod of Perth and Stirling.—County of Perth.*)

By the Reverend Mr JOHN BROWN.

Name, Extent, &c.

THE parish of Glendovan affords but few materials for the researches of the curious. It derives its name from the Water of Dovan, which runs through it in a direction nearly from W. to E. through a narrow glen, scarcely in any place extending to the width of two furlongs, and, in many places, the hills rise immediately from the banks of this stream. The windings of the river, the trees with which it is skirted in many places, and plantations now far advanced, for which the soil seems particularly adapted, together with the verdure of the adjacent hills, afford a most delightful prospect.

The parish of Glendovan is situated in the middle of the Ochill hills, (the great strath called Strathern lying betwixt it and the Grampian Hills; on the N. a fine corn country; on the S. the low grounds of Perthshire and Clackmannan to the Frith of Forth,) extending in length from S. W. to N. E. 6 English miles, and in breadth $4\frac{1}{2}$. It is a hilly district, but the hills are green and smooth, seldom incumbered by rocks, and only a few spots are covered with heath.

Soil

Soil and Produce.—The soil in the low grounds is light and dry, inclining to gravel. It is better adapted for grafs than corn, and yields excellent crops of natural hay. There may be nearly 200 acres under tillage, scattered in small spots along the side of the water, but at an average not yielding four returns, owing to the rains incident to all hilly countries. The farmers now perceiving the small advantage they reap from the plough, and the great profit of sheep, lay out more in grafs. Instead of ploughing a considerable way up the hills as formerly, they now let the lowest of their grounds lie in grafs. They have not turned much of their attention to the culture of green crops for supplying fodder in winter, (which is often in great request,) though the trials made hitherto sufficiently prove that the success is certain, and indeed the soil is particularly favourable to turnip husbandry. They sow chiefly black oats, some white oats of an early kind, rough barley, a small quantity of flax seed, and potatoes. In some farms, there are considerable tracks of inclosed land pastured by cattle in summer.

Sheep.—The principal article attended to is sheep, in the management of which the farmers are much improved. It is only within these twenty years that they began to pay much attention to them. Formerly they depended upon grazing black cattle, and the care of their sheep was only a secondary consideration. The consequence was, as might have been easily foreseen, that what they gained upon the one, they lost upon the other ; and, though their rents were not one half of what they now are, they were with difficulty paid. The number of sheep in the parish, at present, may amount to 8000. They are of the black faced kind, the farmers giving preference to this species, both on account of its size and its hardiness. They have not, in general, come
to

to the method of rearing their own sheep, but keep up their stocks by purchasing hogs * every year from the Linton market. Those who buy in, sell off their lambs to the sheep farmers in the Highlands, or to the butchers. A few, however, have been in the practice of rearing their own sheep, and have in a great measure succeeded; and all might do it, if they would reserve their hog-fence for the winter, as is practised in the more improved farms; though, in general, they want heath, whins thrive wherever sown. Wedders are sold at 4 years old at about 15 s. Most of the farms rent at above 100 l. a year. The farmers endeavour to have one kind of sheep nearly by itself, but they allow them to feed at large, never collecting them unless for shearing, &c. They smear with tar and butter, mixed together, their hogs and sometimes their ewes; and it is imagined it would be profitable to smear the whole, since it is an effectual preservative against the scab. The lambs are sometimes very subject to the *braxy*, for which they have got no effectual remedy. An experiment has been lately tried to cross their black faced sheep with Cheviot tups; as far as can be yet known it promises success; the lambs of this cross breed are equally strong and healthy. Should that experiment answer the expectation of those gentlemen who have bestowed so much attention on the improvement of sheep, it would be of essential service to this place, as the farmers then would have a better market and higher prices for their wool. Their wool sells at from 10 s. to 12 s. and their laid wool at from 6 s. to 7 s. the stone, of the former $7\frac{1}{2}$ fleeces make one stone, and of the latter $5\frac{1}{2}$ fleeces, both taken at an average. The difference in point of size between these fine woolled sheep, and the black faced, of which their stock now consists, is not considerable,

* Sheep of one year old get this name.

derable, the latter selling as high, (if not higher) to the butcher as the Cheviot sheep.

Stock and Rent.—The stock of one of the farms is nearly as follows, viz.

Ten score of 4 years old wedders at 15 l.

per score, - - - L. 150 0 0

Ten ditto 3 years old ditto, 13 l. 15 s.

per score, - - - 137 10 0

Fifteen ewe and wedder hogs at 10 l. per

score, - - - 150 0 0

Ten score of 2 years old wedders at 12 l.

per score, - - - 120 0 0

Fifteen score ewes of different ages at

12 l. per score, - - - 180 0 0

Twelve ditto lambs at 4 l. 10 s. per

score, - - - 54 0 0

One ditto cows at different ages at 3 l. 10 s.

each, - - - 70 0 0

Four horses at 12 l. each, - -

48 0 0

There are in the parish 220 cows and 50 horses. A sheep's grass is reckoned worth 2 s. a milch cow's worth 1 l. 5 s. and a horse's worth 1 l. 10 s. The valued rent of the parish is 1333 l. Scotch, and its real rent is more than doubled within these twenty years, extending to above 800 l. Sterling. There are five heritors in the parish, two only of whom reside in it, and these farm their own lands.

Ecclesiastical State, &c.—The church is old. The manse was built in the year 1747, and hath been several times repaired. The stipend is 33 l. 11 s. 6 $\frac{4}{12}$ Sterling. The parish being early valued, the teinds are exhausted, and there is a
legal

legal glebe. There are few poor, and these are supplied by the ordinary collections. The schoolmaster has 10 l. salary.

Population, &c.—Pasture farms requiring few hands, and there being no towns, or what may be termed villages, within the parish, the number of inhabitants are few, scarcely amounting to 200 of the established church. They seem to have been more numerous formerly, although the return to Dr Webster in 1755, was only 220 souls. The number of marriages, during the last ten years, was 16, and the number of births 38. Besides those of the established church, there are 5 burghers and 35 antiburghers; there are one smith, one mason, and 5 day labourers. Most of the work is performed by servants hired by the year. An ordinary day labourer may earn 1 s. *per* day; this, together with the economy and industry of the wife, enables them to support their families comfortably, and give them a suitable education.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The people are sober, industrious, and happy in their situation. The grain produced in the parish is not sufficient to support the inhabitants, who are supplied with this article from Strathern. They are very well supplied with fuel, either with coals from Blairngone 5 miles distant, or with moss from the hills *.

The

* There is one house which appears to have been built for defence. It is one of these which were erected in the 16th century by the chieftans, to protect their vassals against any sudden attack. It was built by the family of Crawford, to whom the lands of Glendovan, comprehending two large farms, viz. E. Glensherup and Whitehills, belonged. It is longer than most of the same kind; and must have been built at a considerable expence, as many of the stones came from a distance, by a road that was but lately deemed accessible for carriages of any kind. This house was sometime in ruins, but was lately fitted up by the proprietor, for the accommodation of tenants.

The road which forms the principal communication between Strathern and Blairngone, has lately been made more accessible than formerly, and should the plan, now proposed, for the improvement of it, be executed, such an easy passage through such a chain of mountains would scarcely be equalled.

The practice of dismissing the cottars and small tenants, is attended with some disadvantages here. By this practice, the farmers often find it very difficult to procure hands to execute any work, which occurs at a particular season of the year, and continues but for a short time, and the nursery for labouring servants is cut off; for the children brought up in the country, are much more healthy and robust, not to mention other circumstances, and make better labouring servants than those brought up in towns. A woollen manufacture might be established in this place, or the neighbourhood, with advantage. It would be supplied with wool from the Ochills and the West Highlands, which are at no great distance. For such a purpose, a convenient situation might easily be found, on the Doan, which would afford a constant supply of water.

NUMBER XIX.

PARISH OF CLUNY.

(*Presbytery of Kincardine O'Neil.—Synod and County of Aberdeen.*)

By the Reverend Mr ROBERT MICHIE.

Name, Extent, &c.

THE name of this parish is said to be Gaelic, Cluny or Clugnie in that language signifying meadows interspersed with rising grounds; a name descriptive of the district, which lies very low, intersected by many rivulets, some of them pretty large, running in different directions, from the surrounding hills, and forming a great deal of haugh or flat ground, which in floods are overflowed. Many places in Scotland, and some both in France and Spain, have the same name, probably from a similar cause.—Cluny lies in that division of the County of Aberdeen, called Mar, between the rivers Dee and Don.—The breadth of the parish, (excepting in one place, which is about 3 miles,) does not generally exceed two; its length from W. to E. is about 10 miles. It has not been all measured, but the two largest estates in it, Cluny and Castle Fraser, have both been surveyed, and they consist of 2600 acres each, the remainder may be about one third of the whole; so that the contents of the parish may be reckoned 6933 acres, of which about three fifths are in cultivation. There are no mountains, except one on the W. called the forest of Con-
ainy,

ainy, which in that quarter is the boundary of the parish. There is now no wood on it, but probably there was some formerly. The *Dominium directum*, as it is called, belongs to the Duke of Gordon, but the *dominium utile* to his vassals all around, who, by their charters, have a right to fuel and pasturage in it.

Rent, Soil, and Climate.—The valued rent of the parish is 2333l. 6s. 8d. Scotch, and the real rent from 1000l. to 1100l. Sterling. The soil in general is warm and dry, though not deep, except in the flat or low ground, and lies on a bed of mortar or clay mixed with sand. It is remarked, that wherever there are large blocks or masses of granite, with which the district abounds, there the soil is best and most productive. The climate, though humid, is warm, being sheltered by hills almost on every side, so that the winters are generally mild. The snow is seldom deep, and is but of short duration, nor are the frosts intense; but mildews from the rivulets and marshes are sometimes noxious to the crop. There are no epidemical diseases. The most common are rheumatism, consumption, nervous fever, and sometimes scrophula. Of these, consumption is most fatal. The small pox, which used to carry off a fifth part of the human race, seems now to be less acrimonious, and inoculation begins to be generally practised. The climate is salubrious; and, in dangerous disorders, those who are not able to pay a physician, are always sent to the Infirmary at Aberdeen, where they are generally cured, and, for this institution, all ranks in the parish make an annual and liberal contribution.

Agriculture, Farmers, and Cattle.—There are 57 plough-gates of land and 40 farmers, who have ploughs of their own, besides those belonging to proprietors. The land is generally

nerally ploughed by oxen, ten and sometimes twelve in a plough, yoked together in the old manner, by yokes and wooden bows; except by heritors, who plough with two horses and four oxen, and sometimes only two yoked with collars and ropes, which enable them to draw with greater ease, as much as 10 or 12 oxen, yoked in the old manner. Improvements here are but in their infancy; but as the heritors show a good example, and the farmers are inclinable to learn, it is to be hoped they will be carried on to a considerable degree of perfection. The old Scotch plough, which for lee and stony ground is perhaps the best, is yet generally used; but the long stilted plough with an iron head, and curved mould board, begins to be introduced. The ridges, which were formerly crooked and gathered up to a high top, leaving the sides thin and poor, are now made straight and levelled; and inclosures, which formerly were never attempted, are now begun even by the tenants, who gather the stones out of their fields, and with them make substantial fences; the expence being advanced either by the heritors or farmers paying a certain interest, or by the farmers themselves, on an obligation from the heritors for a reimbursement at the expiry of their lease. There are in the parish 801 black cattle, 1300 sheep, 132 horses, 2 waggons, 80 carts. About thirty years ago, there were but two carts in the whole parish, and these belonged to the two principal heritors; meal and grain are carried on horses backs, peat, and turf, the crop and every thing else were carried in the same way, because the roads were in a state of nature. But between the years 1750 and 1760, the gentleman of the county began to exact the statute labour; for this purpose, they divided the county into districts, according to the number of presbyteries, and they appointed the commissioners of supply in each of these districts, to keep regular meetings, to call forth all the country people
between

between sixteen and sixty years of age, to work upon the roads, three days before and three days after harvest annually, in the respective parishes, by overseers named by them for that purpose, under a penalty of 1 s. 6 d. for every person deficient, and to report their diligence at next general meeting at Aberdeen. The happy effects of this regulation have been general over the county. The roads have been repaired, and now not only farmers, but even crofters perform their labour with carts, to their great accommodation and advantage. Turnpikes are immediately to be erected on the most public roads in the county, and it is to be hoped, that as improvements go on and trade increases, they will become general, to the great advantage of the community.

Produce.—No wheat is sown in this district, and there seems to be an inaptitude in the soil for pease and beans. On Dee side, which is generally a poor soil, pease grow without dung, but here they will hardly thrive on the best land without lime, which makes them so hard that boiling scarcely softens them; they are rarely sown, therefore, in the field. The common crops are bear, oats, potatoes, and turnip, the last but just introduced, and which scarcely can become general until the fields are inclosed. For want of inclosures, those farmers who sow turnips are obliged to dig pits for them, and close them on the top with the earth, to save them from the cattle and sheep in autumn, but this is a great loss, as the turnips usually grow till Christmas. They are sometimes sown in drills, at the distance of three feet between the rows, for the sake of horse hoeing; but broad-cast sowing begins to be preferred as producing a larger crop. Flax is only sown by some few families to make linen for their own use. Bear and oats with some rye are the chief crops here; but the husbandry hitherto has been but very indifferent.

The

The infield is usually divided into three parts; one third is dunged for bear, after that produces two crops of oats, and is then dunged again for bear, without being allowed to rest. The other two thirds are always sown with oats, except a little that is planted with potatoes, which make a part of the ordinary diet of the family for two or three months in the beginning of winter. Every farm has at least ten outfield folds, sometimes more, besides faughs; one half of these outfields are always in tillage, producing commonly five, never less than four, successive crops of oats; after which they are left out to rest in succession. The fold which has rested five years is made what is called a tothfold, that is to say, it is surrounded with an earthen fence of a slight kind, but sufficient to keep in both black cattle and sheep three or four hours every day about noon, and the whole of every night from the end of May until the crop is got in. In autumn, this fold with the dung upon it is ploughed up; and, being sown with oats next spring, produces a luxuriant crop, and a still better the second year, when the soil is more broke and reduced, and better mixed with the dung. Even the third crop of oats is tolerable, but the fourth is poor, and the fifth still worse. The faughs are a part of the outfield never dunged, and yet carry usually five crops of oats, and never less than four, when in tillage, the other half of them is always in lee, but the crops, both of oats and grafs which they produce, are generally poor indeed. No marl of any kind has yet been discovered in this district, nor any lime quarry; so that the only manure is animal dung, and the ashes of peat or turf. However, the importation of lime shells, both from the Frith of Forth and from Sunderland, (a boll of the former yielding two bolls and a half, and of the latter three bolls of powdered lime,) being now carried on to a great extent; the farmers begin to bring out shells in small quantities, and this, with

with the dung of their cattle and dry earth, makes a very good compost, with which they manure their bear land. When this is the case, along with their bear seed they sow red and white clover, rye, and rib grafs, which next year, and perhaps for two years, they cut for hay; the third year, and sometimes for the fourth and fifth, they pasture this field. When it is taken again into tillage, they take a crop or two of oats, then a crop of turnip, after that bear and grafs feeds, and then a crop or two of hay, after that pasture for one or more years; and, in the same manner, they manage the rest of their infield. But this can only be said of those few who bring lime from Aberdeen; the rest, who are by far the greatest number, go on in the old wretched manner formerly described.

Fuel.—The only fuel made use of here is peat and turf, and these, in the greatest part of the parish, are very scarce and even difficult to be found, the peat mosses being much exhausted, and some of them totally at an end. There is, indeed, on the top and W. side of the forest of Corrainy, abundance of moss, but that hill being very high and steep on the E. side next to Cluny, and the moss on the W. side at the distance of several miles, it is almost impossible to procure firing from this place, especially for crofters and subtenants, who frequently have no horses or carts of their own. The only resource, therefore, is coal from Aberdeen, with which the people here could supply themselves with tolerable facility, if the price were moderate, which it would be if the tax on coals was taken off*.

Seed

* This was written before the late most wise and politic repeal of the coal tax, for which the country is so much indebted to the present patriotic Secretary of State Mr Dundas.

Seed Time, &c.—Oats are sown here usually from the middle or end of March, and bear is sown and potatoes planted from that time to the beginning or middle of May, according to the season. Harvest begins commonly about the 20th or towards the end of August, and is finished in the beginning or at farthest the middle of October, unless the season be very unfavourable. In the year 1782, so fatal to the kingdom, oats were cut out of snow and ice, in the beginning and even the middle of November; but having been full before the storm came on, they were thought to ripen even under the snow, nor was it the frost that hurt the crop, and brought the meal to 1 s. 6 d. a peck, but the want of wind to dry it, in consequence of which it turned hot, and rotted in the corn yards. The usual produce from the old mode of agriculture, at an average, is three or at most four returns, whereas by the new husbandry, the returns are from ten to twelve, and sometimes more. The product of the district is considerably more than its consumption, and the surplus is carried to Aberdeen, where there is a ready vent for it. Great part of the rents, sometimes a half or more, are paid in bear and meal, which the tenants are obliged, when required, to carry at their own expence to Aberdeen, or any place of the like distance. Some years ago services of all kinds, called bondage, were exacted from the tenants; but they are now mostly converted into money, to their great accommodation and advantage. No leases are granted for more than 19 years, and many for a much shorter period. There is no village in the parish; the farmers and their subtenants, when they have any, live together upon their separate and respective farms, the rents of which are from 10 l. to 40 l. The subtenants, by way of security, sometimes pay the rent before hand, and of course have no rent to pay the year of their removal. They seldom require or get a written lease from

their landlords, but if both parties desire to continue together for another year, upon Shrove Tuesday they are invited by the landlord to a dinner of beef and brose, annually, which is the symbol of the agreement for the ensuing year. As the leases are so short, and no lime is to be found in the country, the habitations both of tenants and subtenants, especially those of the latter, are but mean, the walls being built of stone, generally without mortar, and thatched with straw or broom, which must be renewed every two or three years to keep them dry. They are, however, plaistered with clay in the inside, and tolerably warm. But it is to be hoped that, as improvements increase, the heritors will give their tenantry better houses, or that the latter, upon getting longer leases, will be encouraged to provide themselves in better lodgings, on obtaining obligations of re-imbursement, either from their successors, or from the proprietors, at the expiry of their leases.—There are five heritors in the district, two of whom keep carriages, but only one resides, for some part of the year, in the summer months.

Population.—By the return made to Dr Webster in 1755, the number of examinable persons, above six or seven years of age, was 850. The total number of souls returned to Dr Webster was 994. Since that time, especially of late, it has decreased, owing to various causes. The two greatest heritors have each taken a great quantity of land into their own possession, in order to inclose and improve it by draining, planting, &c. and the people formerly resident on these lands have been removed.—Another cause of the decrease of inhabitants, common to this and other districts of Scotland, is the conjunction of farms, which, though it lessens the number of people in the country, yet tends to the general advantage, as a substantial farmer is more able to inclose and improve his grounds,

grounds, than several smaller ones less enlightened and of narrower fortunes. The vicinity also of the large and manufacturing city of Aberdeen draws away not a few for trades, manufactures, and servants. So that the number of souls at present in the district are not many more than the number of examinable persons forty years ago. The population in this year 1793 stands thus :

Population Table.

Under 10	-	186	Taylors	-	-	5
From 10 to 20	-	184	Shoemakers	-	-	8
From 20 to 30	-	193	Ditto apprentice	-	-	1
From 30 to 40	-	99	Weavers	-	-	8
From 40 to 50	-	101	Ditto apprentices	-	-	3
From 50 to 60	-	70	Millers	-	-	4
From 60 to 70	-	66	Gardeners	-	-	2
From 70 to 80	-	30	Ditto apprentices	-	-	3
From 80 to 90	-	6	Shopkeepers	-	-	3
Total	-	885	Dyer	-	-	1
Males	-	433	Butcher	-	-	1
Females	-	452	Families	-	-	204
Blacksmiths	-	4	Married couples	-	-	137
Houfecarpenters	-	4	Widows	-	-	52
Millwrights	-	2	Men servants	-	-	48
Cartwrights	-	3	Women servants	-	-	35
Coopers	-	3				

Rent.—The rent of the best infield to tenants is from 12 s. to 15 s. to subtenants, when tilled, 20 s. or 21 s.; of the outfield, from 3 s. to 6 s. *per acre*, according to its quality. The rents are paid twice in the year, at Candlemas, or some time in February, when the price of the manufacture of stockings in winter

winter is mostly collected, and in September, after the sale of cattle in the summer markets is over, and the prices of the knitting of stockings for the preceeding half year are collected. The meal and bear is paid in, between Christmas and Candlemas.

Manufacture.—The only manufacture, carried on in this district, is the knitting of stockings, in which all the women, and some old men and boys, are employed the whole year round, excepting in harvest. At this occupation, a woman will earn from 1 s. 8 d. to 2 s. and sometimes 2 s. 6 d. in the week. Manufacturers come from Aberdeen at stated times, and give out wool to the workers; and the stockings, when wrought, are sent either to Holland or London, for which many thousand pounds are returned to the county of Aberdeen. By the loss of America, which was a good market for stockings, by the rivalry of the people in Jersey and Guernsey, as well as Germany, and especially by the late invention of frames, this manufacture has decreased in value. Notwithstanding this, the people here prefer it to the spinning of flax, which requires more confinement and exertion*.

Rivulets

* Forty years ago, the wages of a ploughman, who held a twelve oxen plough, did not exceed 16 s. 8 d. besides victuals for half of the year; a stout man got for harvest, 13 s. or 14 s. and the wages of the best women servant for half a year, never exceeded 10 s. but now, *temporâ mutantur*, the wages of a ploughman have risen from 6 l. to 7 l. and even to 8 l. besides victuals, for the whole year. A stout reaper, in harvest, now gets 40 s. and the wages of a maid servant have also risen from 2 l. 10 s. to 3 l. besides victuals for the year. Masons and carpenters, and tradesman of every sort, have raised their wages in proportion. The hire of a day labourer formerly, never exceeded 4 d. and victuals, but is now come to 1 s. and even 1 s. 3 d. a day, without victuals. Ditching, trenching, and dyking, together

Rivulets and Improvements.—No large river runs through the parish, but the brooks and rivulets abound in trouts, pike, and eels. And the large rivulet or burn of Cluny, breeds pearls. Some years ago, a Jew employed people to fish them, and a great many were got, some of them large and of a good water, which were carried to London to be disposed of.

Improvements are extensively carrying on by the two principal heritors of the district, Mr Gordon of Cluny, one of the Barons of his Majesty's Exchequer, and Miss Frazer of Castle Frazer; the former has inclosed 200 acres of land about his house, partly with hedge and ditch, and beautiful belts or stripes of planting, partly with stone dykes, and partly with ditches. He has also planted 200 acres of barren ground,

gether with the manufacturers at Aberdeen, and the decrease of subtenants, distress the farmers much for want of servants. And even gentlemen find it difficult to get hands to carry on their improvements; but this evil, like many others, will probably cure itself. It will probably oblige the farmers to give up with the old husbandry, which required many hands, and to betake themselves to the new, which requires fewer hands, and yet produces more corn. The dress of all the country people in the district was, some years ago, both for men and women, of cloth made of their own sheep wool, Kilmarnock or Dundee bonnets, and shoes of leather tanned by themselves. Then every servant lad and maid had a quey or steer, sometimes two, and a score or more of sheep, to enable them to marry, and to begin the world with. Now every servant lad almost, must have his Sunday's coat of English broad cloth, a vest and breeches of Manchester cotton, a high crowned hat, and watch in his pocket. The servant maids are dressed in poplins, muslins, lawns, and ribbons. And both sexes have little else than finery to enter the world with, which occasions marriage to be delayed longer than formerly, and often brings mistresses along with it. How devoutly, therefore, is it to be wished, that the patriotic labours of the Wool Society at Edinburgh, for meliorating the breed of sheep, and the quality as well as quantity of wool, may speedily succeed, and the benefits generally prevail over the nation. By this means, large sums would be kept in the country, which are now sent out of it for apparel, and the human species also be multiplied.

ground, with all manner of forrest and ornamental trees, besides many detached clumps upon different eminences, which greatly decorate his estate. But the most valuable and substantial improvement about Cluny, is a large and beautiful meadow of 100 acres; great part of which was formerly overflowed, and, being a marsh, was a defence to the castle, but is now perfectly dry, and fit for tillage. Mr Gordon has also inclosed several parts of his estate, which he has set to tenants. Miss Frazer, who by the death of her brother, has lately succeeded to the estate of Castle Frazer, is carrying on improvements with great spirit; and is to inclose and plant an extensive hill near her house, which, besides its usefulness, will be an ornament not only to Castle Frazer, but to the whole county.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish of Cluny consists of the old parish of that name, and the half of the parish of Kinearny thereto annexed, by decret of the court of tithes, which took place in 1743; the other half of Kinearny is annexed to Midmar, and the stipend and glebe thereof possessed by these two ministers respectively. There are no less than three Patrons, the Crown for Kinearny, the Honourable Baron Gordon of Cluny, and Miss Frazer of Castle Frazer, for the old parish of Cluny, *per vices*. The stipend is 46*l.* 1*s.* 11½*d.* Sterling, besides 2*l.* 15*s.* for the half of the glebe of Kinearny, 11 bolls and a half of bear, 52 bolls and one lippie meal at 8 stone *per* boll. But it is to be observed, that the stipend is less than formerly, owing to the decrease of subtenants and of the vicarage, tithes payable out of Kinearny, which have dwindled from 5*l.* annually to less than 2*l.* and will still decrease more, as inclosing, which begins to be carried on, banishes sheep; at the same time, that vicarage tithes are not only disagreeable to the people, but obviously

a most inconvenient and detrimental mode of payment to a minister. The church being ruinous was pulled down, and a new and elegant one erected in 1789, not on the church-yard, but on a small eminence belonging to the glebe at a little distance, for which Baron Gordon gave an equivalent to the minister, with the concurrence of the Presbytery. The manse also being ruinous, a new and good one, together with offices, was built some years after the incumbent's entry, and both manse and offices have been since repaired. There is a legal school master, who teaches Latin, English, writing, arithmetic and book-keeping, and is attended by about 60 scholars in winter, and 50 in summer. His salary is only 7 bolls, 2 lippies meal, at 8 stone *per* boll, and 2 l. 7 s. 4½ d. Sterling, in money, besides emoluments of teaching, which are 1 s. 4 d. Sterling, for English, 2 s. for writing and arithmetic, and 2 s. 6 d. for Latin *per* quarter. It is much to be regretted, that schoolmasters, who generally get an University education, and are a most useful class of men to the community, should be so miserably provided for, as to have scarcely the necessaries of life.

Poor.—The number of poor varies from 8 to 14; none of them are mendicants. At the present incumbent's entry, the only fund belonging to them, besides collections, fees of mortcloth, and fines for delinquencies, was 10 l. It is now increased by savings to 70 l. the interest of which, with the collections on Sunday, amounting to between 5 l. and 6 l. Sterling, and the collections at the Sacrament, extending to between 4 l. and 5 l. and the payment of a velvet mortcloth at burials, together with the voluntary offerings of transgressors, constitute a tolerable provision for the poor, who are generally able to earn something for themselves by knitting stockings. The number of marriages in the district, at a medium, are
from

from 6 to 8, and the number of baptisms from 22 to 28. No regular list of burials has been kept.

Miscellaneous Observations.—There are no Roman Catholics, Seceders, Episcopalian, nor sectaries of any denomination in the district, except one family lately come into it, who attend an Episcopalian meeting-house in another parish. All the other inhabitants attend the parish church, so much so that about 500 of them annually communicate there. There are two licensed houses for the sale of ale and spirits principally for the sake of travellers, for drinking is much less the custom here than formerly, the people being sober, decent, and industrious. Several live to the age of between 80 and 90. One died a few years ago at the age of 93, and another about two years ago at the age of 97 or 98, and was able to work till a little before his death. There are no mineral springs of great vogue in the district, though several, by the tinge of the water and of the stones on their sides, have the appearance of chalybeates. There is a well, called the Tipper Castle well, generally resorted to some time ago, not for its medicinal virtues, but because of its having been consecrated; rags, threads, and small oblations in money were wont to be made at it to obtain particular blessings, so late as the settlement of the present incumbent, but all these for a considerable time have been effectually abolished. *.

* There are three druidical temples in the district, of the usual circular form and size, and three pillars, but without any inscription, one of them 10 feet high, and 5 feet broad above ground; it is supposed to be the place at which the vassals of the superior were obliged to assemble in feudal times, which is not improbable, as almost the whole district was then held, and the greatest part of the country around still holds, of the Duke of Gordon. There are also two other pillars, one of them 10 feet high, and the other 8, standing near one another, but without any inscription. About three years ago, in repairing a road on

The language of the generality of the people here is the Aberdeenshire dialect, intermixed with several old French words and phrases, from the ancient intercourse betwixt France

on the top of a sandy eminence, were found two stone coffins, or rather chests, each consisting of four flat stones laid on their edges, with a large flat stone for a cover; in each was found a human skull and several human bones, together with an urn of coarse earth, or clay, and rude figures, with ashes in each, but different in shape from Roman urns. Whose remains they were, or at what time deposited, there is no tradition. There is also a muir with several stone cairns upon it, where, according to tradition, there was an engagement in the reign of Charles I. between the Irvines and Forbeses, at that time two potent clans in Aberdeenshire, the former Royalists and the latter Covenanters, wherein some upon both sides fell. There is also, in the archives of a family in the district, a contract of marriage in the fifteenth century, between Andrew Lord Frazer, and Dame Isabel daughter to Lord Forbes, wherein the latter obliges himself to pay to the former, on the high altar of Cluny, on the feast and term of Candlemas, 500 merks and a green apron, by way of tocher-good. On the top of two hills there are two very large cairns, which probably have been collected to kindle fires upon to alarm the country in time of danger, as many of the stones have marks of fire upon them. There are two large castles in the district, those of Cluny and Castle Frazer, built in the beginning of the 15th century; the former by Sir Alexander Gordon, a son of the Huntly family, and the latter by a Lord Frazer; both of a singular form, with a square tower at one corner, and a round tower at the diagonal corner, with leaden platforms and parapet walls; all vaulted below, and six stories high, evidently intended for fortalices, the walls being two ells in thickness, and one of them, the Castle of Cluny, having still a double barred iron gate, weighing thirty two stone, with massy iron bolts, and the remains of a fossé, once full of water. It is also remarkable, that there is a family in the district, of the name of Robertson, originally from Athol, who uninterruptedly have possessed one of the largest farms from father to son, for a series of upwards of 230 years. One of this family, the first Protestant incumbent at Cluny after the reformation, was a member of the first General Assembly at Edinburgh in 1560. Such instances are uncommon in that ambulatory class of people.

France and Scotland. No Gaelic is spoken within twenty miles, but most of the names of places are Celtic, as *Tullicardine*, a hillock where cairns are, *Carndaie*, a place of cattle or oxen, *Acbath*, the long field, &c.

An heritor of the district joined himself to the Camisars * ; and, having wrote down the reveries of these people as they were uttered, denominated himself clerk to the Holy Ghost.

* These were a set of Enthusiasts pretending to immediate inspiration, who having sprung up in France, towards the end of the last century, came over to Britain, and traversed the country to convert the people, and reform the church. They were called Camisars, from the French word *chemise*, they being clothed in linen garments as emblems of their sanctity. At that time, several people of education and fortune were seized with this extraordinary fury.

NUMBER XX.

PARISH OF SALTON.

(County and Presbytery of Haddington.—Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale.)

By the Reverend Mr ANDREW JOHNSTON.

Name, Extent, &c.

THE parish of Salton was formerly the property of Nicolas Soulis, one of the competitors for the Scottish crown, mentioned in Lord Hailes's Annals, and was named, evidently from the Lord of the manor, Soulistown, by abbreviation Soultown, and now, by obvious corruption, Salton.

This district is bounded on the W. by the parish of Pencaitland, from whence it is separated by the rivers Salton and Tyne, which here unite, and form a pretty considerable river, under the appellation of Tyne. From this river, the land rises by a gradual ascent to the S. and S. E. exhibiting, until it reaches the village of East Salton, a rich, regular, and improved surface. To the S. of this village, the face of the country, for near a mile, is less favourable, till it reaches the southern extremity of the parish, where the surface in some measure resumes its former richness: As is the case with the neighbouring parishes, a variety of soil is found, loam, light sand, thin clay, and a deep rich clay; of these, however, the most prevalent is the last.

Climate,

Climate, &c.—The air is dry and extremely salubrious, especially in the higher parts of the parish; in consequence, few diseases prevail. Many of the inhabitants attain a considerable age; and there are some above 80 now living. A tradition is preserved, that some centuries ago, when the plague visited, with dreadful ravages, this country, Salton was the only parish in the east of Scotland which escaped; an exemption imputed to the purity of the air, and the smoke of the limekilns, which it seems even then abounded in the parish.—Salton Hall, the seat of Lieutenant General Fletcher, is an ancient building, formerly a place of considerable strength, possessing all the appurtenances of a regular fortification: It has been much ornamented by the present proprietor. The lawn in front is perhaps the finest in Scotland, commanding a rich and extensive prospect. The garden contains many of the rarest exotics; and, amongst others, the suber, or cork tree, which was long supposed to be too delicate for our northern climate. Here, however, it has attained a considerable size in a common exposure. The pleasure ground is large, and affords a variety of romantic scenery, interspersed with venerable groups of aged elm and oak, and enlivened with the delightful meandrings of Salton Water *. Hermiston, the property of Lord Sinclair, is also an ancient and fortified building. Many vestiges remain of its former strength. Its battlements, turrets, and fosse, are still visible.

There are only two villages of any consequence in the parish, viz. East and West Salton, so denominated on account of their relative situation to each other. East Salton, the largest, is situated nearly in the center of the parish, on the brow

* The library in the house, for variety, elegance, and selection of volumes, is perhaps the best private collection in Britain.

brow of its ascent from the Tyne, and commands an extensive prospect of the richest and most beautiful parts of East Lothian, with the sea, and the eastern coast of Fife, in the back ground of the landscape. It contains 63 houses, and 281 souls. Here the church and manse stand. West Salton lies towards the western extremity, and contains about 33 houses and 127 souls.

Cultivation and Produce.—This parish has been long remarkable for its fertility and excellent crops, and still retains its former character. All the different species of grain are sown with success, but wheat and oats are reckoned the best crops. The excellence of these grains has been much increased, since the new mode of culture was introduced. The custom, which a few years ago prevailed here, of raising two or three white crops in succession, impoverished the soil, and consequently diminished both the quantity and quality of the grain. This pernicious system of farming is now, however, pretty generally exploded; and the following rotation is substituted in its place, viz. fallow, wheat, beans or pease, barley, grass, oats. In this variety the soil seems to delight; and the return upon the whole is much more for the benefit of the farmer. Another circumstance promises to improve still farther the grain produced in this parish, a renewal of the use of lime. So early as the beginning of this century, lime was adopted as a manure in this place; its application, however, to this purpose was gradually discontinued, and at length totally laid aside, from an opinion that it was of no advantage in the improvement of land. This opinion was founded on an idea, that, as the farms lay on a stratum of limestone, the soil must of course be impregnated with it, and a further application would for this reason be unnecessary. This prejudice, however, is daily losing ground, and liming
is

is now very generally introduced into the plan of agricultural improvement, apparently with as much success as any where in the neighbourhood.—The number of farms amounts to 15, consisting entirely of arable land, let at a rent of from 15 s. to 1 l. 14 s. an acre. In the present rage for monopolising and uniting farms, the extent of these may be reckoned small; they contain, in general, from 80 to 200 acres, forming an aggregate of near 2000 acres. Besides these, there are several hundred acres laid out in constant pasture, and in very thriving plantations. Before quitting this article, it may be proper to mention that the culture of turnips has been lately introduced, and promises much success.

Rent.—The valued rent of the parish is 5608 l. 9 s. 11 d. Scotch, paid by six heritors; of whom only one, Lieutenant General Fletcher, who possesses about two thirds of the property, is resident. Few instances occur in these days of dissipation and luxury, of the possession of land being less fluctuating than in this parish. The estate of Salton has been in possession of the Fletchers since the year 1643; and the family from whom it was then purchased, the Abernethies of Salton, had been proprietors thereof from the year 1249. The estate of Herdmonston also affords another pleasing instance of the same kind, having been for centuries in the possession of the present family.

Statistical Table.

Number of souls in 1755	761	Males below 10	-	107
— in 1792	-	830	Females, ditto	- 116
Males above 10	-	280	Tailors	- 5
Females, ditto	-	327	Weavers	- 17
			Shoemakers	

Shoemakers	-	3	Horses employed in a-	
Bakers	-	3	griculture	- 82
Masons	-	4	Saddle horses	- 14
Carpenters	-	4	Carriage horses	- 16
Blacksmiths	-	8	Young horses	- 25
Shopkeepers	-	3	Milch cows	- 98
Millers	-	7	Cows annually reared	- 41
Innkeepers	-	4	Black cattle fed annual-	
Starchmakers	-	7	ly	- 10
Coopers	-	2	Black cattle fed for	
Limestone quarriers and			slaughter	- 90
burners	-	12	Sheep, ditto	- 240
Annual average of births	19			
<hr/>				
			of bu-	
rials *	-	10		

Ecclesiastical State, &c.—General Fletcher is patron. The glebe consists of near 5 acres of excellent land. The stipend is 40 l. 5 s. 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in money, and in victual 1 chalder of wheat, 1 chalder of barley, 6 bolls of oats, and about 27 bolls of oat-meal. The manse is a large but old house, built in 1659. The inhabitants are all of the established church, except two who are quakers, and about 15 who are seceders.—The session record of this place goes back for near a century and a half. So early as the year 1635, a register was kept of baptisms and marriages, and the amount of the former, from an average of 5 years, is 24 annually, being 5 above the present baptism roll. This ancient record contains also an account of the business of the session, and of the collection and expenditure of the poors money, written with much seeming precision and accuracy : Even at that period, the provision

* The registers of births and burials (from whence the above average is taken) are very inaccurate and incomplete.

provision for the poor appears to have been considerable. It has since, however, been greatly increased; and, at present, perhaps, there is no parish of equal extent in Scotland, where the poor are so amply provided for as here. This provision arises from a funded principal of 700 l. bequeathed at different times by the family of Fletcher of Salton, from collections and mortcloth dues amounting to about 12 l. a year, and from a bequest of 150 merks Scotch, annually, by the celebrated Gilbert Burnet, Bishop of Salisbury, for the private distribution of the minister of the parish. These different sums, amounting to about 52 l. *per annum*, are fully sufficient for the exigencies of the poor. A part is laid out in the purchase of meal for the monthly supply of 20 indigent persons, whose names are inserted in the poor's roll; part in the payment of house rents, and the remainder for the relief of incidental necessity.

Several years ago, two academies were established in this parish, through the public spirit of the late proprietor of Salton, Mr Andrew Fletcher, and the former incumbent, Mr Bannerman. They were supplied with able teachers; and one was appropriated to the education of boys, the other of girls. The characters of the teachers, and the peculiar healthiness of the situation, added to the laudable zeal of the patrons of the institution, soon procured a number of boarders of both sexes, from various parts of Scotland. The instruction was not confined to the more common parts of education; it included also its higher and politer branches, music, mathematics, natural philosophy, and astronomy, for which proper apparatus was procured. The success of this institution, for some time, gratified completely the wishes of its founders, and was attended with much emolument to the parish. This success, however, did not long continue, and the plan was unaccountably laid aside a few years after its commencement. No attempt

tempt at a re-establishment is now thought of, and the houses, which were extremely commodious, and built at a considerable expence, are now made use of for a very different purpose. The children of this place, however, are still well supplied with the means of education. There are two schools for their accommodation, with well qualified teachers, whose respective salaries, including every emolument, may amount to 25 l. *per annum*. There is also a school mistress, with a salary of 10 l. *per annum*, who teaches sewing, &c. Each of these teachers is furnished with a house, school-house, and garden, and the number of scholars, at the three schools, may be about 100. The parish has been enabled to make this very liberal provision, for the education of its youth, by means of the munificent donation of Bishop Burnet. In the year 1711, he bequeathed 20,000 merks Scotch, to the parish of Salton; the annual rents to be applied to the following purposes, viz. the education and cloathing of 30 children; the payment of their apprentice fees; the relief of the indigent; and the annual increase of a library in the manse, intended for the sole use of the minister of the parish. Of this fund, the Lords of Council and Session were nominated inspectors, and, by their appointment, the proprietors of the estates of Salton and Hermiton, together with the minister of the parish, act as trustees. Under the judicious management of these trustees, the funds have increased to a capital of upwards of 2000 l. Sterling, by which means, the various purposes of the donor's will are completely complied with. The children are well clothed, properly educated, and instructed in some respectable trade. The poor are comfortably provided; and the minister's library is supplied with most of the ancient and modern classics.

Manufactures.—The only manufactures of any consequence in the parish, are a starch-work, which employs 8 persons, a
Vol. X. K k paper-mill,

paper-mill, which employs 8, and a bleach-field, which employs 7. It was not so formerly. In the beginning of this century, the art of manufacturing pot barley, and of weaving hollands, was introduced into this parish, and exclusively practised to the great emolument of the inhabitants, who, for several years, supplied the whole of Scotland with these important articles. These arts owe their introduction to the patriotism of the Lady of Henry Fletcher of Salton. Animated with a desire of increasing the manufactory of her country, this lady travelled to Holland with two expert mechanics, in the habit of servants. Her rank procured her easy access, together with her supposed domestics, to the manufactories; and by frequent visits, the secrets of operation were discovered; models of the various works were formed by the disguised artists; and the parish became possessed of two discoveries, which were a wonderful saving to the nation. In the year 1750, too, the first bleach-field, belonging to the British Linen Company, was formed in this place, under the patronage of the famous Lord Milton. During his Lordship's life, it was conducted with much spirit; no expence was spared in procuring from Ireland, the most expert work-men, and it became at last so very flourishing, as to afford employment to upwards of 100 persons. But stability is the character of none of the works of men; the bleach-field has for many years been converted into delightful pleasure ground, inhabited by beings very different from those that are to be found in a fuller's field.

Minerals.—A stratum of limestone rock pervades almost the whole parish. It is of an excellent quality, and has been wrought from a very remote period, both for the purposes of agriculture and of building. As it abounds in most of the farms, the sale of it was formerly of considerable emolument to the respective tenants. This privilege, however, has of late years,

years, for obvious reasons, been taken from the farmers. Two excellent draw-kilns have been erected. The lime quarries have been let in lease to a single tacksmen, who gives employment to near 40 workmen, and supplies great part of the county with limeshell, at 1 s. *per* boll. Under this stratum of limestone, there is every reason to believe, from some slight experiments made, that a fine seam of coal may be found. But there are so many excellent coaleries in the neighbourhood, it has not hitherto been reckoned an object to work it. Besides these fossils there is also, on General Fletcher's property, an extensive freestone quarry, which is easily wrought, and of a very superior quality*.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The inhabitants are decent in their deportment, frugal and industrious, and remarkable for their

* Salton is entitled to vie with most of the parishes of Scotland, in the honour of giving birth, or affording residence, to the greatest number of eminent characters. In the first class, she is proud to enrol the name of Dunbar, the Horace of his country. This favourite of the Muses, was born at Salton in the year 1465. In the earlier period of his life, he was a friar; but he soon relinquished the profession of a Monk, for that of a poet, and by the singular excellence of his compositions, attracted the royal attention; became a favourite at the Scottish Court; and was admitted a companion of all their select parties. The versatile genius of Dunbar, qualified him completely for shining in these. Of all the productions of this bard, his *Golden Terge**, and his *Thistle and Rose*†, have been most generally admired.

Burnet, bishop of Salisbury, comes next in the list of genius and merit. He was not indeed a native of Salton; but he spent five years of his life as rector of the parish, and it was here his clerical career began. In 1669, he was invited hence to the divinity chair in Glasgow. This respectable office, he filled with much

* The design of the *Golden Terge*, is to show the gradual and imperceptible influence of love, when too far indulged over reason.

† Celebrating the marriage of the daughter of Henry VII. with James II.

their attention to the ordinances of religion. For these many years, no crimes of a public nature have been committed. The interposition of the civil power has of course been unnecessary. They possess several advantages beyond most of their neighbours.

much credit and ability, till 1674, when the political jealousies of the times, obliged him to relinquish his chair and his country. This temporary inconvenience was abundantly compensated on the accession of King William; and, under the patronage of this Prince, his genius and merit obtained their due reward. He attained a high place in the esteem of his Sovereign, and filled a very dignified station in the church.

This parish was the birth place of Andrew Fletcher of Salton, the famous patriot, who was for some years the pupil of Burnet. From this great man, he seems to have imbibed much of that liberal and independent character, which he displayed through life. His political principles, which were truly republican, disgusted him completely at the despotic reigns of Charles and James, and made him engage keenly in every project, for the recovery of the constitution and liberties of his country. He was in the secret councils of Lord Ruffel, and was a principal leader in Monmouth's expedition. His abilities as a statesman were unrivalled in his time.

Lord Milton, nephew to this great man, and not inferior to him in patriotism, was also a native of Salton. He was born in the year 1692, educated to the profession of the bar, admitted an advocate, appointed a Lord of Session, and at length raised to the distinguished office of Lord Justice Clerk. It was in this high station, that he did his country essential service, during the unhappy rebellion in 1745. The conduct of almost the whole public affairs of Scotland fell upon him, and these he managed, with such an uncommon degree of discretion, temper, and moderation, that the impetuosity of wanton punishment was restrained, and lenient measures adopted in favour of those, whom indiscertion or ignorance had betrayed into hostility. He overlooked many of the informations, which were brought to his office; and it is stated here from the best authority, that after his death, many sealed letters, containing such information, were found unopened among his other papers. With the same patriotic views, he engaged zealously in the abolition of heritable jurisdictions, which had long been inimical to order and to justice: With unremitting ardour, he pursued every scheme that could promote the trade, manufactures, agriculture, and reforming of his country.

neighbours. In the village of East Salton, there is a weekly market, where the different kinds of butcher meat are sold, of excellent quality, and at moderate prices. They are in the vicinity too of excellent coal, sold at the pit for $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. *per* load of 2 cwt. The water in the parish is extremely salubrious, running over a bed of limestone. It is at all seasons uncommonly cool, and is reckoned peculiarly proper for culinary purposes.—Near the house of Salton is a mineral spring, the properties of which have been only discovered within these 12 years. In the opinion of an eminent physician, to whom it was shown, it is in no respect inferior to the medicinal waters of Bristol, possessing the same qualities, as the water of these celebrated wells; it is without smell, peculiarly soft, pleasant, and agreeable to the taste, and has been kept for years in a corked bottle, without any sensible loss of its properties. Salton affords an advantageous situation for the establishment of manufactures. Fuel and provisions are cheap; and the rivers Salton and Tyne afford a range of two miles, very convenient for the erection of such manufactures as require being conducted by water. It is within 6 miles also of a good sea port, where the manufactures might be shipped to any quarter of the globe.

NUM.

NUMBER XXI.

PARISH OF MORVEN.

(*Presbytery of Mull.—Synod and County of Argyle.*)

By the Reverend Mr NORMAN McLEOD.

Extent, Name, &c.

THE parish of Morven is bounded by the Sound of Mull from S. E. to N. W. dividing it from the large island of that name to the westward; on the N. by that arm of the sea called Loch-Suineart, dividing it from the parish of Ardnamurchan. It has been computed to be 14 miles in length, along the Sound of Mull; but the whole length of the parish, taken from Tearneat on the E. to Aulistein on the W. cannot be less than 20 miles. Its greatest breadth is 10 computed miles. It forms a large peninsula, of which the Isthmus, from Strontian at the head of Loch-Suineart to the west shore of Linnehellih, in a straight line from sea to sea, is about 6 miles over.—As this parish was never wholly surveyed, it is difficult to form a conjecture what number of acres it may contain; but, from a partial survey and mensuration made, it cannot be much below 60,000. The modern name Morven, or Morvern, as it is more properly called, being the method of spelling it in ancient records, and much nearer the uniform pronunciation of the inhabitants, is plainly

ly from the ancient Gaelic name ‘*Mor-Earran*,’ i. e. ‘great division, or lot *.’

Surface, Soil, &c.—The general appearance of this parish is hilly, but without mountains of any remarkable height. Its hills are partly covered with heath, but for the most part yield good pasture. The inhabitation is along the sea side all around, the inland parts being mostly hilly, and the arable ground lying at the bottom of these hills. Along the Sound of Mull, the arable ground (such we call it) is upon a declivity, in many places very steep, and much elevated above the level of the sea. The soil, in general, is a poor, light, open earth, interspersed in some places with a mixture of gravel and small stones; some spots that lie lower, and are flatter, answer well for such kinds of crops as are generally raised in this country; these are, barley, potatoes, and oats of a very poor quality, called small oats. The incumbent, and some of the tacksmen, have, within these few years, tried to raise great, or white, oats; in which, upon the whole, they have succeeded so well, that they still adhere to the practice; yet it must be owned, that it is by much a more precarious crop, and less suited to this climate, than our small oats, as it runs a greater risk of suffering more from the July and August

* To those who are acquainted with the Gaelic language, it will appear evident, that the meaning of this name must be different from the word *Mor Ven*, as used in the Poems of Ossian, where it is derived from the Gaelic words ‘*Mor-Bheann*,’ i. e. ‘of the great mountains,’ and seems to have been a general term for the *Highlands*, or *hilly country*. The common notion is, that the whole Highlands were the country of Fingal and his heroes, for in every part thereof, as well as in this parish, there are names derived from them and their achievements. The whole Highlands might justly be called ‘*Duthaich nam mor-Bheann*,’ or ‘country of high hills.’ But a Highlander never gives that name to this parish, but calls it ‘*A mhor-earran*.’

gust rains, and autumnal storms. The whole of the parish, especially the west side, or that part which looks towards the Sound of Mull, is so much exposed, that the raising of crops of any kind is always a precarious business, and, in some seasons, a certain loss. For this reason, most of the inhabitants, especially the gentlemen tacksmen, have now turned their attention to grazing and rearing of cattle.

It is observable in this, and it is believed, in the neighbouring parishes, that the weather has of late become more changeable, and it is an incontestible fact that rain has fallen, (during some years past) in by far greater quantities than the oldest inhabitants remember. This does a material injury to all kinds of crops, occasions late harvests, which baffle the hopes of the farmer, and subject him to many vexatious losses and galling disappointments. Although the climate is thus generally moist and rainy, the parish is far from being unwholesome. During the incumbency of the present minister, many have died betwixt the age of 80 and 90, and some even above 90; and there are now living several above 80, particularly one man and his wife, who were married more than 60 years ago, and whose faculties and strength are so far from being impaired, that they continue to follow their respective employments with astonishing alacrity and vigour. The most common ailments are colds and rheumatisms, of which few people are supposed to die; but whether these bring on other sicknesses or diseases, which end in death, it is the province of physicians to determine.

Seed Time, Harvest, Crops, &c.—In a climate so wet, it is not to be supposed that sowing can commence early: We commonly begin about the middle of March, and, unless the season proves unfavourable, expect to cut down about the latter end of September. From our small oats we have but
 poor

poor returns, being commonly one boll of meal, *i. e.* 16 pecks, and a boll of seed corn. Our great oats yield much better returns, but become worse and worse every year after the second sowing; and, if new seed be not procured, in the course of very few years degenerate to the quality of small oats. From a boll of barley, we generally get 4, 5, or 6 seeds, and there are instances of good spots, well dressed and manured, returning 16. From potatoes planted in *lazybeds* (which used to be the general method throughout the parish) tenfold is reckoned a good return. Some have of late begun to raise them from the drill, from which great advantage is derived, that method producing from 15 to 25 returns: It is hoped this will soon be the general practice, as the people are fond enough of their interest where they can see it. Want of encouragement to inclose grounds for hay has hitherto prevented the tacksmen from attempting to raise grass from seeds. Some attention to green crops would probably be found more profitable in this climate than the inhabitants are aware of. This they may become sensible of in time; and it takes time to introduce a new system into any country.

Farms, Produce, and Stock.—The method of uniting farms began long ago, and seems to be gaining ground in proportion to the avidity for high rents, and the rage for sheep stocks. It may be questioned, whether the letting of land in large tenements be not on the whole more proper for this country, than the old method of setting it in small portions. There is a much greater proportion of hill than of low ground; and a tacksmen occupying from 5000 to 7000 acres, (of which there are instances in this parish) is much more able than a number of poor people can be to carry on improvements, by building proper houses, making necessary inclosures, and by introducing new modes of managing ground

and stock. But this union of farms cannot be said to be in favour of population, though, if proprietors would allot small spots of ground at an easy rate to the poorer people, and be at pains to establish manufactures among them, the improvement of the country and population might go hand in hand; the people might keep their country and live happy; and the proprietors in the end would find it redound much to their credit and interest. There has, indeed, no emigration to America taken place from this parish as yet, but a yearly drain to the low country for service, &c. owing to the union of farms, and the general poverty of the country, where there are no manufactures to employ, and little produce to support the inhabitants.—The farms, as presently possessed, are 32 in number, of which 17 are in the hands of gentlemen tacksmen, and for the most part stocked with sheep; 5 in lease to shepherds; and 10 occupied by small tenants. The annual average of kelp manufactured and sold may be about 70 tons; and the common rate of manufacturing it is 1 l. 10 s. *per* ton.—The exports are, cows, horses, sheep, wool, kelp, timber, and barks. The imports consist of many articles; the principal of which are, meal yearly in great quantities, tanned leather, iron, tar, ropes, smearing butter, merchant goods of various kinds, &c *.

Roads,

* The common prices of labour are, a man servant, for a year, from 4 l. to 5 l.; a single woman from 1 l. 5 s. to 2 l. exclusive of shoes and maintenance, and other perquisites, all which are daily increasing in value. Formerly farms were generally managed by married, or cottage, servants, with us called workmen. The common encouragement for these was holding of 5 or 6 *soums* in cows and sheep, which was then valued at 10 s. the *soum*; with us they had one fourth part of what crops were made, and maintenance throughout the year, except the time employed in ploughing the ground and reaping the crops; this mode was found very inconvenient and expensive, and is now almost totally disused. A day labourer earns 1 s. *per* day; taylors are paid

Roads, Rivers, &c.—As to the roads of this parish little can be said. The line of road along the coast of the Sound of Mull is, by the application of the statute labour, for the most part rideable; through the other parts of the parish so little has been done to them, that they may be said to remain this day as nature left them: The people, however, are now becoming more sensible of the advantages that would arise from good roads; though from their scattered situation, and the want of residing heritors to bring them forward, the work proceeds but slowly.—There are many rapid torrents pouring down from the hills to the sea; some of which are so considerable, as to be always impassable in times of heavy rain. Ten of these are more dangerous than the rest, on account of the greater quantity of water, and the coarseness of their channels. Of all these, three only have got bridges over them, and one of the three is in so ruinous a condition as to be hardly safe for passengers.—There are some very valuable stools of natural woods in many parts of the parish, particularly along the whole Loch-Suineart side, consisting chiefly of birch, interspersed with some valuable spots of oak and ash, also around the south east end of the parish, facing the Sound of Mull, and at the head and both sides of Loch-alin Bay. The respective proprietors of these woods benefit themselves much by selling them off to the Lorn-furnace company or others for charcoal, &c. the manufacturing of which must be supposed very serviceable to the poor of this and the neighbouring parishes. During the last seven years, a sum of 8000 l. or 10,000 l. Sterling has been expended

paid by the job, by which they earn from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s. *per* day, exclusive of maintenance; a boat carpenter, joiner, cowan, (or builder of stone without mortar,) get 1 s. at the *minimum*, and good maintenance; a shepherd has from 7 l. to 10 l. *per annum*, besides maintenance and shoes; weavers are paid by the measure, and according to the quality of the stuff.

ed on these works in their different branches, viz. cutting, piling, burning, leading, peeling of bark, &c.

Fishing.—At the head of Loch-alin, there is a salmon fishing, of service to the people concerned, but the exports are not considerable. On the north side of the parish, or near the head of Loch-Suineart, herrings are found sometimes in great abundance, of good size and quality, in the months of August and November, which would be of considerable advantage to this and the neighbouring parishes, were there a certain and easy method of supplying the inhabitants with salt; but this is not the case; a circumstance very discouraging to the fisher, and detrimental to the community at large. This was particularly felt in the year 1790. as no salt could be found in any of the neighbouring customhouses of Tobermory, Oban, or Fort-William, at the time needed; the consequence was the loss of many of the herrings.—The other kinds of fish, found on these coasts, are sea bream, red or rock-cod, skate, lythe, flounder, mackerel, sea perch, dog-fish, gurnet, eel, and, at the mouth of almost every river, small salmon, and white trout; besides a variety of shell-fish, such as, oysters, cockles, lobsters, crabs, muscles, limpets and periwinkles, spout fish, &c. There are also found marine vegetables, dulse, and flake, which are much esteemed by those who are in the habit of using them. These articles, though of service to the inhabitants, are never found in such quantities as to be sent to market*.

Ferries,

* The sea fowls are, ducks of various kinds, scauts or cormorants, gulls, herons, curlews, and some others. The land birds are, eagles, hawks, ravens, crows, and hooded-crows, grouse, black cock, pigeons, ptarmigans, partridges, wood-cocks, plovers, snipes, besides a variety of small birds. The beasts of prey are, foxes, fumarts, martins, wild cats. In our woods are deer

Ferries, &c.—There are two stated ferries from this to the neighbouring parishes, viz. one to the Mull from *Ferenish*, and one to Ardnamurchan from Dorlin, at the mouth of Loch-Suineart. Another such is much wanted in the E. end of the parish, either at Kyle or Knock, where, though the boatmen ferry at times, one cannot force them out but when it suits their humour and conveniency, and even then at whatever rates they please to exact. It is much to be wished, that in these, and such stated ferries, some more attention was paid by those who have the management of the police, both to the conduct of the ferrymen, and the kind of boats they ought to keep.—Over and above the boats used on these ferries, there are no fewer than 100 small boats in the parish kept for the purpose of fishing, and carrying seaware as manure to their lands, &c.; as also 12 or 14 barges of a larger size, well rigged, the property of the gentlemen tacksmen, for transporting themselves occasionally to the neighbouring islands, and for other purposes of usefulness and convenience. There are likewise boats of greater tonnage for following the herring fishery at a distance; and one vessel of about 20 tons burden, employed in the coasting trade.—Though the keeping of so many boats be evidently attended with

deer and roes; and in our hills, mountain-hares: The whole parish, both hill and strath, is much infested with moles, and no means are used to destroy them, though they are very hurtful to the ground.—It has been remarked of old, that rats would not live in Morven; this remark seems to be confirmed by several circumstances consistent with the knowledge of most of the inhabitants now alive. A few years ago, some vessels were put ashore by stress of weather in Loch-alin Bay; by which circumstance, a vast number of rats flocked to the houses on each side of the harbour. So numerous and mischievous were they, that it was apprehended they would spread and overrun the whole parish; yet it happened, that, in a few years, they disappeared, and now none are to be seen from one end of the parish to the other.

with much expence, yet it may be reckoned among the advantages of the parish, that it is indented and almost surrounded with arms of the sea, many of which form safe anchorage for shipping in the worst weather. Loch-alin Bay, running in from the Sound of Mull in the S. E. part of the parish, forms a safe and capacious harbour; but it is rather narrow at the mouth, and not of easy entrance, unless with either a favourable tide or fair wind. There is another late and commodious harbour at the mouth of Loch-Suineart, called Drumby; it is, on the Morven side, formed by a deep and clear inlet, betwixt the island Oronsay and the mainland. There are besides numberless fine creeks for small boats; and, along the coast, scarce a bay wherein a vessel of any tonnage may not pass a tide.

Statistical Table.

Sheep (of the South		Above 80	-	-	12
Country breed)	- 14,000	Annual average of			
Black cattle	- 2500	births for the last			
Breeding mares	- 100	5 years	-		35
Working horses	- 150	Annual average of			
Number of souls in		marriages, ditto	-		9
1755	- - 1223	Weavers male	-		24
Number in 1793	- 1764	Ditto, Female	-		10
Families	- - 384	Taylors	-	-	15
Males	- - 914	Blacksmiths	-		2
Females	- - 850	Shoemaker	-		1
Under 10	- 501	Broguemakers	-		4
From 10 to 20	- 473	Joiners	-	-	3
— 20 to 50	- 586	Wheelwrights	-		2
— 50 to 70	- 149	Cowans	-	-	8
— 70 to 80	- 43	Boatcarpenters	-		2
		Gardener			

Gardener	-	-	1	Real rent, Sterling - L. 2200
Coopers	-	-	2	Valued rent,
Millers	-	-	3	ditto - L. 256:19:11
Retailers of spirits	-	-	12	
Mills	-	-	3	
Dramhouses	-	-	12	

Ecclesiastical State.—The Duke of Argyle is patron and principal heritor; there are, besides, 3 other heritors, all non-residents. The incumbent came to the parish in the year 1775; at which time the living was only 58 l. 11 s. with 5 l. more in lieu of manse and offices, and 5 l. to furnish communion elements. An augmentation of 25 l. was obtained in the year 1787, which makes the living now (including elements) equal to 88 l. 11 s. besides there is a glebe of 46 acres much improved by the incumbent. A good manse and office-houses were obtained, and built in the year 1780, which cost the parish 375 l. yet such is the nature of the climate, and exposure of the situation, that they already stand in need of repairs, which the heritors have agreed to give next summer. There are 2 churches, so called from their outward appearance, but with respect to decency of accommodation, they might as properly be called shades: In these the minister alternately officiates. They are at 8 computed miles distance. The dimensions of each, no more than 40 by 16 feet, within walls; without seats or bells. It is much to be regretted, that, since the reformation, little or no attention has been paid to the seating of churches in this country; and no less so, as it is the prevailing opinion, that no positive law exists to force unwilling heritors to so necessary and decent an accommodation. Though these are the only stated places of worship, the incumbent, from motives of Christian compassion to the wants of the people, whose distance prevents their attendance

attendance at either church, gives sermon a few Sundays in the year to two other places in the parish. The manse lies in a line betwixt the two churches, $\frac{1}{3}$ from the one, and $\frac{2}{3}$ from the other.

Schools.—There is only 8 l. Sterling of a salary, by decret of the commissioners of supply, for a parochial school, without any accommodation whatever. Of this sum, none of the heritors, except the Duke of Argyle, have paid their proportions for some years past; notwithstanding which, the minister and a few gentlemen tacksmen have made a shift, though under great disadvantages, to keep it agoing hitherto, otherwise it, and of course the society's school, must have dropt long ago. It is true the heritors might be compelled by law; but no schoolmaster will prosecute, as the school is not worth contending for; and the incumbent, or presbytery, find such difficulties attending processes of this kind, from this part of the world, as to have very little encouragement, in exhausting their small livings on law-suits, where the opposition is so powerful, and the issue far from certain: The parochial school is attended by nearly 50 scholars, 6 of whom are girls. There is also another school paid by the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, endowed with a salary of 10 l. besides a free house, free fuel, and holding for one cow: Yet so little are people accustomed to public burdens of this nature, that the greatest difficulties constantly occur about furnishing these accommodations, and keeping the dwelling and school-houses in repair. There is however reason to think these difficulties will soon be obviated, as the patron and principal heritor has begun to relieve his tenants and poor people from this servitude, by giving 5 l. a year to some of the schools of this establishment on his property, in lieu of public burdens. It is to be wished, both for the peace and happiness

piness of the schoolmasters, and for preserving a good understanding betwixt them and the people, that this, or some such conversion would become general. The Society also allows 6l. for a spinning mistress; the benefit of which would be more sensibly felt, were there a method of providing the poorer sort with a few wheels, and some lint. Besides these public places of education, there are 7 or 8 gentlemen tacks-men who keep private teachers in their families, as they can have no access to the public schools, on account of the distance.

Poor.—The poor are from 40 to 50 in number. The chief funds for their support, (besides the charity of the people in their houses,) are the weekly collection at the churches, and pecuniary mulcts imposed for immoralities; both which amount, one year with another, to 8 l. The session has lately got nearly 40 l. being the principal and interest of 20 l. bequeathed in the year 1772 to the poor of Morven, by Mrs Jean Cameron of Mount Cameron; to which, it is hoped, something more will be added, which may render their situation more comfortable, in time coming, than it has hitherto been.

Character, &c.—The whole parishioners are of the established church, excepting a few non-jurant episcopalians.—Of old, the bulk of the people were inclined to that form of religious worship, from political principles; but, for many years past, these prejudices have been gradually falling off, and are now almost entirely forgot. Few prejudices indeed, of any kind, are prevalent among them. On the incumbent's coming to the parish, they were very much prejudiced against inoculation: But, whether owing to his endeavours, or to the success of the practice among the more enlightened of their neighbours, during the last visit the country had from this

dangerous disorder, the generality not only agreed to inoculation, but many performed the operation on their own children, and those of their neighbours, with perfect safety.

The people are in general industrious, had they a subject to work upon, or a proper stimulus. They are not addicted to any particular vice; but this must be understood with some exceptions, as must always be expected among so large a body of people. In the year 1786, no fewer than 30 were expelled the parish for theft, not by the sentence of a magistrate, but by the united efforts of the better sort of the inhabitants. The good effects of this expulsion have been sensibly felt; and though a little gleaning is now thought necessary, yet, having a sheriff court established in the neighbourhood, the necessity of such violent exertions are in a great measure obviated*.

Miscellaneous

* The principal antiquity is the ruin of a castle, at a farm called *Ardterinish*, (possibly the *Inishtore* of Ossian,) on the Sound of Mull, where M'Donald of the Isles resided, and held his courts and parliaments. *Vide* Abercrombie's life of James II. In different parts of the parish, especially along the coast of the Sound of Mull, on elevated places, there are several circular buildings, commonly called Druidical temples or cairns. They are generally formed of large whinstones, inclosing a small spot of ground, of different diameters, none of them exceeding 8 yards. The language, principally spoken in the parish, is Gaelic. But of late years, by the advantages derived from schools, and the more general communication with the low country, the English language is more universally understood throughout the parish than formerly. Many names of places in this parish are of unknown or uncertain derivations; others plainly of Gaelic or Celtic original. Thus *Innisnore*, is the great brae; *Port a baat*, the boat creek; *Fiunary*, Fingal's shieling; *Dunien*, Fingal's fort or hill; *Kemin*, Fingal's steps or stairs. *Dunien* is a curious round rock, of considerable height, partly covered on the sides with a green sward, but of no easy ascent. On the top is an area of about $\frac{1}{8}$ of an acre, which evidently appears to have been encircled with a wall; very few vestiges of which now remain, owing partly to the injuries of time, and partly to want of taste

Miscellaneous Observations. —The principal disadvantages, and the greatest hinderances to every species of improvement, are the difficulties people generally have in supplying themselves with peats for fuel. The making of peats is at best but a tiresome and tedious operation; often precarious, and attended with a heavy expence, besides the loss of the summer and autumnal months, which might be applied to much more lucrative and useful purposes. Were the people able to purchase coals, as there is water-carriage to the door of almost every farm-house, it would be a mighty advantage, and tend to render their situation much more comfortable and easy. A modification of the salt laws also would be necessary, in order to answer the benevolent intentions of the founders

taste in the tenants formerly occupying the farm, who pulled down the stones, for domestic purposes, to save the trouble of quarrying. The den itself commands an extensive view, and was well chosen for a place of defence against a flying party: It lies on the farm of *Fiunary*, and is now part of the glebe. There is a water running by the foot of the hill, of a romantic appearance, on account of its high banks and the number of its pools and cascades. The sloping braes, on each side of this water, were formerly covered with a fine natural wood of oak and ash; of which nothing now remains but a little brush-wood, a nuisance rather than a beauty to the place. *Kemin*, is steps in the form of a natural stair, pretty regular, in a rock, towards the top of a hill called *Bein-eiden*, mentioned in an old poem ascribed to Ossian; but whether this, or another of that name in Ireland, be the hill therein referred to, it is not pretended to say; *Drimnin*, the ridges; *ulliu*, the elbow; *stion*, the nose; *achabarn*, the field of cairns; *arginish*, the shieling of good bedding for cattle, names of places very descriptive of their appearance or properties. The principal place of worship, and where the oldest church stands, is called *Gill-collum kilt*, or cell of the famous Columbus of Jona. The other place of worship is called *Kilunuk*, or cell of Winifred. Though the church is now removed to a little distance from it, at each of these there is a church-yard, or burying ground, but now without any fence, though anciently their precincts were distinctly marked, and considered as sanctuaries.

founders of fishing villages. Another principal disadvantage is the difficulty and uncertainty of communication by water with the low country. Though a vessel, called a packet, runs at times between the Clyde and the Sound of Mull, it has been only set agoing and continued by private adventurers for their own interest, and is subjected to no rules calculated for the public good; no dependance can be had either on the time of its sailing, or the rate of freight. As the business of the country, in its present unimproved state, cannot afford sufficient employment, were a small bounty allowed by government to keep one or two such vessels constantly going, and rates of freight so fixed that there might be neither danger of imposition, nor fear of disappointment, the advantages to these parts, would be greater than can well be estimated. Increase of business would, in time, supersede the necessity of a bounty.

At the head of Loch Alin Bay, there is a very flattering appearance of coal; to work which, a feeble attempt has been made, and a few tons of good quality found; but, not being prosecuted with vigour, it has not succeeded. This is the more to be regretted, as the mine lies close by the shore of this good and commodious harbour. Around the whole of this loch freestone and limestone, of excellent qualities, are found in great abundance. Some years ago an attempt was made to come at a lead mine on a farm called *Lurgbhuidh*, but with little success; though some are of opinion that the appearances deserved more attention. At the farm of *Ardintlibet*, there is a well, into which if green leather be thrown at night, it will be found perfectly black in the morning.

NUMBER XXII.

PARISH OF LASWADE.

(Presbytery of Dalkeith.—Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale.—County of Edinburgh.)

By the Reverend Mr JOHN PATON,

Extent, Soil, &c.

LASWADE is divided nearly into two equal parts by the river North Esk. Its figure is irregular, being 8 miles in length, and varying from 2 to 4 miles in breadth. In surface, soil, and climate, this parish is extremely various; on the N. it includes the eastern extremity of the Pentland Hills, which is covered partly with heath, and partly with fine green pasture; on the S. there is an extensive track of moor and wet moss; about 1000 acres are covered with natural and planted timber, viz. oak, ash, elm, Scotch fir, spruce, and larix; the rest, which is by far the greatest part of the parish, is arable land. The soil is extremely various in its quality; in general, however, it is good, and produces excellent crops of all the common grains. The lands of Pendriech in this parish, in particular, used to be remarkable for producing pease of so superior a quality that they were sold at 2 s. or 3 s. *per* boll higher than any in the country.

The climate is as various as the soil, in so much, that, from the lower to the higher extremities, the distance of 2 miles makes a difference of 10 or 12 days in ripening the productions

tions of the earth. In this particular, the higher districts are improving every year by the influence of large and thriving plantations.

Agriculture.—There are 50 ploughs in the parish, mostly of Small's construction, and drawn by 2 horses, but some farmers still prefer the Scotch plough. The following is the rotation of crops most frequently observed. Wheat is sown after potatoes, or summer fallow; when the wheat is after potatoes, and on light sand, it is sown down with grass seeds; when after summer fallow, it is succeeded by a crop of pease or beans, then oats or barley with grass seeds; after lying a year or two in grass, the land is broken up and sown with oats. About a sixth part of the arable ground in the parish is kept in pasture, for which graziers pay a high rent.

Gardening is carried on here to a considerable extent; and the attention of the gardener is chiefly directed to the cultivation of strawberries, than which he has not a surer or more profitable crop. They depend less upon the season than other fruits; they never, indeed, fail altogether, which in this country is often the case with the other productions of the garden; and, when properly cultivated, this fruit will yield at an average 18l. from an acre. It may be observed, that it was in this parish that strawberries were first raised in any quantities for the public market.

The farmers, in general, breed their own horses, which are of a large size, and valued at from 18l. to 25l. They breed also their own cows, mostly of the common Scotch kind, and which will sell for from 5l. to 10l. Many gentlemen have cows of the English, Dutch, and Guernsey breed.

Markets, Rent, &c.—There is a butcher market in the parish, where the prices are nearly the same as in Edinburgh; this

this is the case with all other kinds of provisions.—The valued rent of this parish is 7436 l. 6 s. 8 d. Scotch, and its real rent may be from 5000 l. to 6000 l. The highest price given for land is 2 l. *per* acre.

Manufactures are in a thriving state, there being two extensive bleachfields, 1 barley, and 2 meal mills, and 4 paper mills, besides a fifth lately erected. It is about 50 years since the first paper mill was built in this parish; and, within these 30 years, the number of people employed in this manufacture has increased from 30 or 40 to about 260: These, with the tradesmen and labourers occasionally employed, receive and circulate in the parish above 3000 l. annually, besides a considerable sum given for coal. The rags consumed weigh above 300 tons; and the duties paid to the revenue amount to above 1800 l. yearly. Mr Simpson, proprietor of 2 of the mills in this parish, has the merit of being the first paper manufacturer in this country who has applied the liquor recommended by Berthollet in his new method of bleaching to the purpose of whitening rags. He has erected an apparatus for preparing this liquor, which, by the addition of some new ingredients, he makes without its offensive smell, and uses it in the common paper engine, (as has been done for some time in Ireland,) without retarding the operation, or doing any injury to the steel. This improvement, it is thought, will add much to the quality and beauty of the paper. He has also the merit of bringing into use in this country, the drying of paper by means of flues on the principle of hot houses, which must contribute much to forward this branch of the business during the winter season. Some experiments are just now making at his mill, and with great hopes of success, for heating the vats on a new plan, which will have many advantages over the present method, particularly in point of cleanliness, and saving of coal.

Minerals.

Minerals.—The minerals come under the general denomination of coal metals, viz. sandstone, (or freestone,) clays of great variety, having different names according to their colour and degree of induration, a very great number of distinct seams of coal, and three beds of limestone. These extend over the whole of the parish; nor has there as yet been discovered within its bounds any granite or basalt (here termed whinstone,) in any solid mass, or even contained in any fracture, (or dike as it is called) excepting in a small corner on the east end of the ridge of Pentland Hills.—The rolling stones, found occasionally in the channel of the river, are brought down in floods from the hills, lying without the bounds of the parish.

On the north west side of the river North Esk, the metals stand much on edge, forming in some places an angle of above 65 degrees with the horizon; and in other places (though not in this parish) standing perfectly perpendicular, for which reason the coals in this district are distinguished by the name of the edge coals. They consist of different seams, small and great, almost innumerable; but in the barony of Loanhead, about the middle of their course through the parish, they amount to twenty-five in number, of workable seams from two to ten feet in thickness. By a cross level mine from the river, they are wrought from the grafs downwards to the depth of 90 yards perpendicular.—These edge seams, from the sea side in the lands of Duddingston in the line of their direction (or streak,) extend in a body towards Linton in Tweeddale, about 12 or 13 miles, of which the part in this parish is about four miles in length.

On the south east side of the river the metals have so small a dip or declination, that the coal there, of which seven or eight seams have already been discovered, has got the name of the flat broad coals. Their dip is about one in seven or eight

eight seams have already been discovered, has got the name of the flat broad coals; their dip is about one in seven or eight; their extent within the parish from S. W. to N. E. from 7 to 8 miles in length.

The whole of these metals within the parish, and on both sides of the river, dip to the S. E. but towards the S. E. boundary, in crossing a certain supposed line, extending up the country from the sea side near Musselburgh, the several strata are known to take a rise towards both sides; and this general line on the face of the country, corresponding with the position of the strata below, has formed what may be called a trough. That some of the uppermost seams of coal, which are known to have a rise towards both sides, may be preserved entire and unbroken, in their passage through this trough, is not to be doubted; neither is it to be doubted, that some of the edge coals, after sinking on the N. do rise again on the S. side of this trough, but that they keep entire and unbroken in their passage below this trough is held to be improbable.

The coal is distinguished by the terms of splint and rough only, and possesses little of the caking quality of the Newcastle coal. The damp is of the mephitic kind, which extinguishes a candle. Inflammable air was never seen in our pits. It is not known at what time these coals were first begun to be taken out, but, in the lands of Pendrich, it must have been above 200 years ago.

The annual produce has fluctuated much; at an average, it may be stated at 30,000 tons, valued, at the pit-head, between 6000 l. and 7000 l. The price, when delivered in Edinburgh, will amount, including carriage, to 12,000 l. or 14,000 l. There are from 90 to 100 colliers, (pickmen). Women are still employed as bearers below ground; their number may be from 130 to 150.

On the boundary betwixt this parish and Libberton, one of

the edge coals has been on fire for 20 years past. A farmer to clear his land of rubbish, which had remained after an old pit had been filled up, had it gathered together, and burnt upon the top of the pit. Two or three years thereafter, it was discovered that the fire had been continued down the pit, through the coal rubbish with which it had been filled up, and was found burning into the wastes or excavations below. Many endeavours have been made to have it extinguished, but hitherto (it is feared) without effect, for neither can air be perfectly excluded, nor can the places on fire be any how laid under water.

Population.—In 1791, this parish contained rather more than 3000 inhabitants. The return to Dr Webster, in 1755, was 2190 souls. For this increase the following reasons may be assigned, viz. 1st, Manufactures have greatly increased, particularly that of paper. 2d, Improvements of every kind have been carried on to a great extent, which has occasioned a greater demand for labourers. 3d, Some of the proprietors have been in the use of feuing ground for building upon, which, added to the plenty of coal in the parish, has induced strangers to settle in it.

Poor.—In so large and populous a parish, the number of poor must of course be considerable. There are, accordingly, about 50 persons, who receive a stated allowance of from 2s. to 4s. *per* month, besides others who are occasionally supplied. The collections at the church doors, which amount to upwards of 30l. *per annum*; the dues arising from mort-cloths, marriages, and fines, which may be estimated at 20l. together with the interest of a capital stock of 333l. 6s. 8d. have, till lately, been sufficient to answer the demands. But these funds being now inadequate to the expenditure, the heritors make up this deficiency by a voluntary contribution. This mode they wisely prefer to an assessment, a measure which

which ought always to be avoided, if possible, as it never fails to increase the number of claimants. There is a laudable spirit in the common people of this country, which keeps them from applying for aid out of the poors funds, so long as they can do any thing for themselves. This arises from the apprehension, that these funds depend for their supply solely on the voluntary contributions at the church doors. Whereas, no sooner do they find that there is a legal establishment in their favour, than they apply for aid without reserve, and before they stand in need of it *.

Ecclesiastical State and School.—Sir John Clerk of Penny-cuick is patron. The stipend consists of 70 l. 16 s. 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. Sterling, 44 bolls 2 lippies of oats, and 26 bolls, 1 firloot, 2 lippies of barley. The glebe contains upwards of 5 acres arable, besides pasture. The manse, one of the best in the country, was built in 1789, and cost 500 l. If the sum expended in building the manse is a proof of the liberality of the heritors, they deserve no less credit from the church just now erecting, which, in point of accommodation, and magnificence of structure, will far exceed any modern country church in Scotland. The number of dissenters of all denominations is considerable. The Cameronians and Burgher seceders have each of them a meeting-house within the parish.

* This parish is connected with several charitable societies. The nature of these associations is this; the paper makers, carter, and colliers, belonging to different adjacent parishes, have a fund belonging to each profession. Every person, who chooses to enter, pays so much quarterly into this common stock, and, in return, is entitled to a weekly allowance when disabled from working, by sickness or any accident. These societies are useful not only for the purposes of charity, but also for preserving good morals among their members, since it is one of their established rules, that no person, who lies under the imputation of any crime, can receive aid from their fund.

rish. There is a thriving school in the village of Lafwade, where English, Latin, writing, arithmetic, and mathematics are taught with success. The schoolmasters salary and fees as session clerk, &c. amount to 16 l. and the profits of his school to about 20 l. *per annum*. He has a good house, which enables him to keep boarders.

Curiosities and Antiquities.—The North Esk has a most beautiful run for several miles within this parish. On its banks are to be seen many of those favoured spots, which nature and art have combined to adorn to an uncommon degree. The winding course of the river, appearing often to lose itself among the rocks; its banks, which are remarkably bold and finely wooded; the huge pieces of rock seen projecting at proper intervals from among the trees, form an assemblage of the most romantic and picturesque scenes that are to be met with in the southern parts of Scotland. In the midst of this beautiful scenery, is situated the house of Hawthornden, remarkable not only for its having belonged to Drummond the poet and historian, but also for the caves under it. There are various conjectures as to the original intention of these subterraneous cavities. Dr Stukeley has given credit to a fabulous tradition, that they were a strong hold of the Pictish kings; and, accordingly, one cave is called the Kings Gallery, another, the Kings Bed Chamber, and a third, the Guard Room. Setting aside this groundless tradition, the most probable opinion is, that they were intended as places of refuge during the destructive wars that subsisted long between the English and Picts, or English and Scotch. Detached from the principal caves there is a smaller one, called the Cypress Grove, where Drummond is said to have composed many of his poems. It was in these caverns that the famous Sir Alexander Ramsay, one of the ancestors of the Dalhousie family, and who performed

formed such exploits of valour during the contest for the crown between Bruce and Baliol, used to conceal himself. Here, he was resorted to by the young warriors of his day, who considered it as a necessary piece of military education to have been of his band; and from thence he sallied forth as occasion presented itself *, and attacked the English, then in possession of Edinburgh †.

Near

* Dalrymple's Annals.

† About half a mile above Hawthornden stand the venerable ruins of Roslin. A particular description of these ruins would be superfluous here, as they are universally known, and drawings of them are every where to be seen. They have suffered much within these 40 years. It is uncertain when this castle was built; most probably it was in the beginning of the 12th century, when William de Sancto Clere, son to Waldernus de St Clere, who came over with William the Conqueror, obtained from Malcolm Canmore a grant of the barony of Roslin. No mention is made of it in history, till the reign of James II. when we read of Sir William Hamilton being confined therein, for engaging in the rebellion which Earl Douglas had raised against that monarch. In 1554, it was burnt by the army of Henry VIII. along with Leith and Craigmillar. This castle was the ancient seat of the St Clere's, a family of great note in this country. They had very extensive possessions, and many titles; being Earls of Caithness, and Orkney, Dukes of Oldenburgh, &c. and they were for many generations patrons and Grand Masters of masonry in Scotland. This honour was conferred upon them by James II. and continued in their family till lately.

On the hill immediately above the castle, is the chapel of Roslin, founded by William Earl of Caithness and Orkney, for a provost, 6 prebendaries, and 2 singing boys. The founder endowed it with the church-lands of Pentland, 4 acres of land near that town, the kyps, and 8 founs of grass near to Pentland. This chapel is a beautiful piece of Gothic architecture; and, notwithstanding some damage it sustained by a mob in 1688, is still very entire. It is 68 feet in length, 34 in breadth, and 40 in height: The roof is arched, and supported by 2 rows of pillars. It is highly ornamented with curious workmanship. The present building is only the choir of a large collegiate church, that

was

Near the house of Mavisbank, built by the late Sir John Clerk, is a mount of earth of considerable height, which is supposed

was intended to have been built. Within the chapel is a vault, the burying place of the family of Roslin, the soil of which is so dry that bodies have been found entire 80 years after their interment. They were formerly buried in armour, and without a coffin. 'The late Roslin,' says father Hay, in his M. S. Memoirs, 'was the first that was buried in a coffin, contrary to the sentiments of James VII. who was then in Scotland;' and he adds, 'that the great expence my mother was at in burying her husband occasioned the sumptuary acts that were made in the next parliament.' The village of Roslin was a place of considerable consequence. James II. erected it into burgh of barony at Stirling in 1456, with a weekly market, and a yearly fair.

Near to Roslin is the scene of a battle that was fought betwixt the English and Scotch, on the 24th February 1303. The English and Scotch writers differ much in their accounts of this action: Of which we have from our own historians the following particulars. During a truce, Ralf Confrey, treasurer to Edward I. invaded Scotland at the head of 30000 men, well armed, and mostly mounted on horseback. With a view to plunder, he divided his forces into three bodies; and, having reached the neighbourhood of Roslin, encamped them in as many different stations. On hearing of this invasion, Sir Symon Frazer and Sir John Cuming, the Scotch generals, drew together such an army as they could muster in haste, amounting to 8000, or at most to 10,000 men. With these they marched from Biggar; and fell unexpectedly on the first division of the enemy, whom they totally routed, and drove those who escaped back on the second camp. Here, on the alarm being given, the English took to their arms, and sallied forth on the Scots, while they were dividing the spoil. The conflict was again renewed; and the Scotch were a second time victorious. Scarce had they begun to refresh themselves, after this bloody engagement, when a third army appeared in view. It is not to be wondered at that their courage began now to fail them, already faint and fatigued with the service they had gone through; and accordingly it was with difficulty that their commanders could prevail on them to stand their ground. Animated, however, by their harangues and the hope of plunder, they, a third time, and on the same day, received and routed a fresh body of troops, and superior in number to themselves. This engagement was much spoken of at the time both at home and abroad.

supposed to have been a Roman station. It is circular in its form, and begirt with ramparts, now cut into terraces. Here several articles of brass, and of ancient form, have been found, such as weapons, bridle bits, chirurgical instruments, stilli, fibulae, &c. Some of these being Roman, the rest have been considered as such also; they are still to be seen at Penny-cuick. In a neighbouring farm is a tumulus, where several urns, filled with burnt bones, have been dug up. These circumstances led Sir John Clerk, who was well acquainted with the antiquities of this country, to suppose that this must have been a Roman station. And, accordingly, the late General Roy has pointed it out in his maps, as the place where the Romans passed the North Esk, in their way from the South to Cramond.

Miscellaneous Observations.—Along the banks of the river is a constant succession of gentleman's seats, many of them large and excellent houses. Melville castle in particular, the seat of Mr Dundas, one of his Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, is a noble building, and suited to the exalted station of its owner. It was built a few years ago, on the site of the old house of that name, which, tradition says, belonged to David Rizzio, and was occasionally inhabited by Queen Mary. This tradition may have taken its rise from a circumstance mentioned by Buchanan, that Mary, wishing to give her favourite an establishment in the country, and a seat in the Convention, cast her eyes first of all on the lands of Melville, and applied in the most earnest manner to the proprietor to give them up. But the historian adds, that she could not prevail on him, and that she was much offended at the refusal.

This parish has the honour of having given birth to William Drummond, author of the history of the 5 first James's, and other works of merit in prose and verse. He was born

at

at Hawthornden on the 13th of February 1585. The particulars of his life are so well known, that it is unnecessary to enter into a detail of them in this place. His works, considering the period when they were composed, do honour to himself and his country: They discover a mind highly cultivated, and of a refined and elegant cast. His company was much courted by his cotemporaries. Ben Johnson came from London on foot, on purpose to pass some weeks with him at Hawthornden, and some fragments of their conversations are to be found in his works. He was zealously attached to the cause of Charles I. and it is said, that the unhappy fate of that monarch hastened on his own death, which happened on the 4th of December 1649. He was buried in his family gile in the church of Laswade.

N U M B E R XXIII.

P A R I S H O F A N C R U M.

(Presbytery of Jedburgh.—Synod of Merse and Tiviotdale.—County of Roxburgh.)

By the Reverend THOMAS SOMERVILLE, D. D. Minister of Jedburgh.

Extent and Name.

THE parish of Ancrum, situated nearly in the center of the county of Roxburgh, stretches 5 miles in length upon the N. side of the river Tiviot, which divides it from the parishes of Jedburgh and Bedrule. The extreme length of this district is not less than 6 miles, and its breadth does not exceed 4.—The name of the village, Alncromb, as it is written in ancient records *, signifies, as I have been informed, in the Gaelic, crook upon river; and is exactly descriptive of its situation on the south side of Ale, where the river runs in a curve or crooked direction, and the adjacent banks, to which the village approaches, exhibit the side of an ellipsis. The parish of Langnewton was annexed to that of Ancrum in the end of the last century, and forms the N. W. and part of the N. side of the parish, as now described. The river Ale, issuing from the loch of that name in the county of Selkirk, takes its course through this parish from W. to E. separating, as I conjecture, the old parish of Langnewton;

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and

* See Charter of William to the Abbey of Jedburgh.

and discharges itself into Tiviot at the distance of half a mile below the village, and a quarter of a mile above Ancrum Bridge on the great road to Jedburgh. This river abounds with excellent trout, and affords better sport to the fishers than any other in this country.

Soil, Agriculture, &c.—The soil, in the lower grounds of the parish upon the side of Tiviot, is rich, consisting of a mixture of sand and clay, and, in some places, particularly near the village, of a loam. In every season it produces good crops of wheat, barley, potatoes, turnips, and sown grass. On the higher ground or ridge, which pervades the parish from E. to W. and, on the declivities exposed to the N. the surface is a heath, wet, partially stony, covering a bottom of cold clay; but the flat ground, on both the Ancrum and Langnewton side of Ale, is naturally rich, though, being of a deep and stiff clay, it is not so easily ploughed, nor are the returns so certain, as in the Tiviot haughs or holmes.

There was formerly a considerable extent of wood in this parish; but none of long standing remains, except upon the banks of the Ale near the village of Ancrum, and that which is in the environs of Ancrum-house, on the opposite side of the river. There are several young plantations of fir and white wood belonging to Sir John Scott, Admiral Elliot, &c. and some, comprehending not less than 100 acres, upon the estate of Sir George Douglas, in the barony of Langnewton. These are all thriving; and already begin to embellish the aspect of the country, which was formerly bleak and desolate.

The situation of Ancrum-house, where, according to tradition, the village formerly stood, is picturesque and attractive. The surrounding fields are beautifully diversified both in figure and surface. Spots of verdant lawn, sometimes level and sometimes sloping, craggy knolls, scattered trees, and
steep

steep banks upon the verge of the river, in some places naked and of broken surface, and in others clothed with wood, exhibit a rare assemblage of romantic objects. The trees surrounding Ancrum-house deserve to be particularly distinguished in a statistical description, being, I believe, the oldest and most beautiful in this country. They consist of oaks, beech, elms, planes, and limes of a large size and bushy top. The prospect from the house down the vale of Tiviot, and bounded by the lofty mountains of Cheviot, is grand and extensive.

Ecclesiastical State, &c.—Sir John Scott is patron of the united parishes, and titular of Ancrum. The emoluments of the minister of Ancrum may be moderately stated at the value of 150*l. per annum*. He enjoys no part of the stipend paid to the minister of Langnewton before its annexation. The church is in good repair. The heritors have voluntarily augmented the salary of the schoolmaster; and built a schoolhouse larger and more commodious than in any other country parish in this presbytery.

The poor are maintained by a quarterly assessment proportioned to the valued rent. The weekly collections in this parish are, I believe, disposed of by the kirk-session for *interim* supply; and, as I have been informed by the late incumbent, contribute more effectually in this way to alleviate the quarterly assessments, than by paying the one half of them to the collector for the poor, as is the case in other parishes. The last quarterly assessment was at the rate of 3*s.* 6*d.* *per* quarter on each hundred pounds Scotch of valued rent, and the number of the poor upon the roll 24.

Population.—An enumeration of the people has been lately

ly made by the schoolmaster for the purpose of this work, and stands as follows :

Males in Ancrum parish	-	-	-	-	337
Females in ditto	-	-	-	-	387
Children under 10 years	-	-	-	-	223
Total	-	-	-	-	947
Males in Langnewton parish	-	-	-	-	69
Females in ditto	-	-	-	-	82
Children under 10 years	-	-	-	-	48
Total	-	-	-	-	199
Total in both parishes					1146

The return to Dr Webster in 1755 was 1066 souls.

From the report of the grave-digger in Ancrum, who keeps an exact list of all the funerals, it appears that, during the last eight years he has been in that office, they amount precisely to 200; but this relates only to the old parish of Ancrum. There is a church-yard in Langnewton where the inhabitants of that district are buried, and some in both the districts of Ancrum and Langnewton are buried in neighbouring parishes.—There are many Seceders adhering to the Burgher, Antiburgher, and Relief congregations, in Jedburgh; but the generality of the people continue in the establishment.

Heritors, Value of Land, Improvements, &c.—The Duke of Roxburgh, Sir John Scott, Sir George Douglas, Admiral Elliot, Mr Carre of Cavers, Major Bennet of Sandhill, Mr Ogilvie of Chesters, and Miss Stewarts, are considerable heritors. There are several small heritors, and some feuers in the village of Ancrum, who possess farms of a few acres contiguous to their own property; but the greatest part of the land in this parish is let in large farms, though not so large as in the neighbourhood. The most considerable part of the farms

farms in this parish is ploughed, though a few cattle and sheep are also kept on them. A great proportion of the land is inclosed, partly with dry stone dikes, but mostly with ditch and hedge; and some cattle and sheep are fattened upon turnips and grafs for the market. Some of the largest and best cultivated farms in this parish are let at 1 l. *per* acre, and grafs inclosures, for the summer only, have been let at the rate of two guineas *per* acre; in the open muirland ground, the rent cannot be estimated at more than 4 s. or 5 s. *per* acre. The valued rent of the united parishes of Ancrum and Langnewton amounts to 12,332 l. 2 s. Scotch, and the real rent exceeds 4000 l. Sterling.

Minerals, &c.—There are several freestone quarries in this parish. The stone is easily wrought and of a durable quality, as appears from its entire state in some of the oldest buildings. Shell marl has been found in different mosses, and particularly on the estate of Belches, belonging to Mr Carre of Cavers, where it has been used, and has contributed to the improvement of the neighbouring farms. There are two bridges over the river Ale in this parish; one at the church, which is narrow, and seems to have been intended principally for the convenience of the parishioners on the north side of the river; the other was erected about twenty years ago a little below the village; and has greatly contributed not only to the accommodation of the immediate neighbourhood, but to that of the parishes west of Ancrum, by rendering their communication with Jedburgh, Kelso, and the Merse, at all times certain and safe.—There is a lintmill, built some years ago by Sir John Scott, in the neighbourhood of Ancrum; and, as there is not another within many miles, it meets with good encouragement, and it is to be hoped will promote the culture of an article which has hitherto been less

less attended to in this country than in other parts of Scotland *.

There

* The Roman road from York to the Frith of Forth, after passing through the north east part of the parish of Jedburgh, cuts a small part of the north corner of Ancrum. Upon the top and declivity of the hill eastward, on the border of Maxton parish, vestiges of a Roman camp may still be traced. The ridge in the parish of Ancrum, over which the present road to Edinburgh passes, is at the distance of about a quarter or half a mile west of the line of the Roman road. It is called Liliard's Edge, from a lady of that name, who, upon an invasion of the English during the regency of the Earl of Arran, fought with masculine bravery, and fell under many wounds upon this spot, consecrated to her memory. As the English, commanded by Lord Rivers, were repulsed, though their numbers were superior, courtesy must incline us to suppose, that the high spirited and animating example of our Scottish Amazon chiefly contributed to the glory and triumph of the day.

The most venerable fragment of antiquity in the parish is the Maltese wall or walls, upon a rising ground at the bottom of the village of Ancrum, close to the side of the river, where it turns its course towards the S. E. These walls were strongly built of stone and lime in the figure of a parallelogram, and, ascending on one side from the plain adjacent to the river, were considerably higher than the summit of the hill which they inclose; but are now levelled with its surface, and a small part of them remain. Vaults or subterraneous arches have been discovered in the neighbouring ground, and underneath the area inclosed by the building. Human bones are still found by persons ploughing or digging in the plain at the side of the river, which is an evidence of its having been formerly occupied as burying-ground. The name, which these walls still retain, gives the colour of authenticity to a tradition generally received in this part of the country, that the building, and surrounding fields, had been vested in the Knights of Malta, or Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, who, upon account of their splendid achievements and meritorious services in the holy wars, had acquired property even in the most remote kingdoms of Christendom. On the banks of the Ale, below the House of Ancrum, there were several caves or recesses, and not less than fifteen may be still pointed out. In some of them there are also vestiges of chimneys or fire places, and holes for the passage of smoke from the back part of the cave to the outside of the bank.

There were formerly many malt-kilns in the village of Ancrum. Old people specify the number of eighteen or twenty having been in constant occupation in the days of their fathers; an evidence of the extent of the contraband trade carried on by the Scottish borderers previous to the union.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The people, in general, are industrious, healthy, and robust; and there have been instances of extraordinary longevity in this as well as in neighbouring parishes, though it is remarkable that no person now living in it exceeds the age of seventy five. Mr Cranstoun, the last incumbent but one, attained to the age of eighty four, during fifty seven years of which period, he had been minister of the parish; and he and his son were the only Presbyterian incumbents in Ancrum from the Revolution till January 1790, a fact that probably has not a parallel in any other part of Scotland. The late Mr Cranstoun, during the first fifty years of his ministry, had never been rendered incapable of performing his duty by indisposition. Though, for the last seven years of his life, from the increasing infirmities of age, he found it convenient to accept of the occasional assistance of his brethern; and discontinued preaching altogether the two last, being regularly supplied by an assistant at his own expence, yet his health was sound, and his mental faculties entire and vigorous. A comprehensive understanding,
and

bank. From these appearances, it is natural to conclude, that, though these caves, so frequently found on the banks of rivers in border counties, were originally intended for places of concealment and shelter, yet, after the happy event which put an end to interior violence and depredation, they were probably assumed by the poorer classes for places of habitation, and improved by such farther accommodations as the rude or simple taste of the times required.

and a penetrating discernment of characters, improved by a wide compass of observation *, great facility and force of expression,

* Reflecting upon the information and pleasure derived from my intercourse with Mr Cranston, I embrace this opportunity of recommending to young persons, who are inquisitive for knowledge, to reverence the hoary head, to court the company and conversation of those whose wisdom has been enriched and dignified by the experience of multiplied years. If this advice were more strictly attended to, interesting anecdotes, and valuable information, which elude the notice of general history, while they are recent and familiar, would often be conveyed by authentic tradition; and acquiring importance from the rapid and strange vicissitudes they exhibit, as well as from their contrast and connection with modern events and manners, would, at length, enter into record, and be rescued from the gulph of oblivion. By accumulating a store of facts, our views of past history would become more correct and enlarged; and the speculations of the philosopher and politician, relative to future events, and to measures affecting the interests of posterity, would be founded upon the most solid basis.

The plan of this statistical history seems well calculated to supply what has hitherto been a *desideratum* in literature; and, in the estimation of future generations, the locality and minuteness of the circumstances which it contains, will constitute not the smallest part of its interest and utility. Enlightened by such instruction, we are enabled to investigate the sources of prejudices and customs, the elements of characters and manners, and the causes of events, of which, otherwise, we are utterly at a loss to give any explanation or account. I illustrate this observation by a fact strictly pertinent to my present argument. There are few, perhaps none in this parish, who have heard of the persecution of Mr Livingston the minister of Ancrum after the Restoration. He was universally respected in the church for his piety and for his popular talents as a preacher, and dearly beloved by his flock. He was banished in his old age, because he could not, in his conscience, conform to Episcopal government, and keep the King's fasts. Many of his people shared the same fate; and in that number some boys, because they adhered to his principles, and were guilty of rudeness to the curate who was appointed his successor. But, though the story is not remembered, the effects of it are still permanent and operative, and an antipathy to every form and institution supposed to be derived from Episcopacy, has been instilled with the rudiments of

pression, with good humour and affability, rendered his conversation singularly instructive and pleasant.

of education, and fosters prejudices which we behold with candour and allowance, when acquainted with the grounds on which they were originally founded.

In a moral and religious view, the knowledge of local facts is important, for enabling us to form a proper estimate of privileges peculiar to our own times. It is certainly more safe and candid to compare our political condition with that of our fathers, than with refined and visionary theories of perfection which never existed in any preceding age. The peace and liberty which we enjoy, contrasted with the persecution and tyranny under which they suffered, are the most obvious and forcible arguments for loyalty to our Sovereign, a reverence for our laws, attachment to our constitution, and gratitude to heaven

NUMBER XXIV.

PARISH OF CLYNE.

(*Presbytery of Dornoch.—Synod of Sutherland and Caithness.—County of Sutherland.*)

By the Reverend Mr WALTER ROSS.

Name, Extent, &c.

THE parish of Clyne seems to have got its name from the Kirktown of the parish, which is situated on a declivity, and was called Clyne from the Celtic word *clanodh* or inclining. The inhabited part of it extends in length, from the N. W. to the S. E. about 24 measured miles. Its greatest breadth, near the N. W. boundary, extends about 8, and on the S. or S. E. along the shore, about 4 measured miles. The form of the parish is a trapezium. What may be called the Lowlands extends along the shore about 3 measured miles, and towards the hill from the shore, its greatest extent is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile, in some parts not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ mile.

Population, Cattle, &c.—The Lowland track contains about 700 inhabitants; the remaining Highland part about 960.—The Highland part of the parish breeds all the domestic animals, viz. horses, black cattle, sheep, and goats. No hogs are reared for exportation, but many by the inhabitants for their own use, which they sell to one another at no contemptible prices. Betwixt 400 and 500 black cattle are exported yearly from

from the parish, being sold to drovers for the south of Scotland, and for England. This trade, however, is not yet well understood or carried on under proper regulations, several dealers having of late found means, after getting possession of the cattle, to evade payment of the greatest part of the price. This has been the source of incredible confusion and distress for a number of years past, and the inhabitants of this parish have suffered deeply their own share of the public calamity. The dependence of the Highland part of the parish for paying their rent, and supporting their families, is upon the produce of their flocks and herds.

Statistical Table.

Number of inhabitants		Horses in the parish	-	700
in 1755	-	1406	Milch cows	- 570
Number of inhabitants		Sheep, without a sheep		
in 1793	-	1660	farm,	- - 4000
Baptisms in 1782	-	38	Goats	- - 400
———— 1792	-	50		
———— on an average				
of 11 years				
from 1782 * to				
1792	- -	59 $\frac{3}{4}$		

Manufactures, Commerce, &c.—Very little industry in manufactures has hitherto been introduced among the inhabitants. Two gentlemen have of late set up a retail shop at Brora. They give out lint to be spun, which is of use throughout this parish and the whole country, employing betwixt

* From the obstinacy of the people, and their reluctance to pay the tax, as well as the many burying-grounds in the parish, it is impossible to ascertain the burials.

twixt 2000 and 3000 spinners. The yarn is sent south to be manufactured. Salt pans were set agoing at Brora, and great quantities made and exported by a company from Portsoy, in the time of the late Earl of Sutherland. This work was discontinued about 16 years ago on account of the duty on the coal, the seam found in the parish being of a sulphureous quality. It is to be wished that it were renewed with greater vigour.

Soil, Produce, &c.—It is to be regretted that we are far behind our neighbours in Rossshire in the article of rearing lint, though our soil and climate seem to be very well adapted to its cultivation. The inhabitants upon the coast are chiefly farmers; they sow principally bear, and, for alternate crops, oats and pease. About the year 1756, planting of potatoes was introduced, and is still practised throughout the whole parish with great advantage. Every farmer has generally one half of his possession under bear, and plants potatoes in that half which was formerly allotted for pease and oats. The bear land on the coast side is generally manured with sea weed or ware. There is hardly any such thing as leaving any spot of land or ground, capable of culture, ley, or in any way of summer fallow. In short very little progress in improvement has been made; partly owing to the prejudices of the people for old customs, and partly to the reluctance that the managers of the affairs of the Sutherland family have always shown to granting of leases. The average produce from bear, on the coast, is 6 returns; of oats and pease betwixt 4 and 5. In the Highland parts little is sown, and that only in choice spots laboriously manured and thinly sown, by which means the returns are frequently 10 or 12 feeds. What may appear astonishing is, that, in many spots, uninterrupted crops of bear are taken without rest or change in the
memory

memory of man.—The climate is wholesome. The prevailing diseases are, coughs, colds, and rheumatism. Of late the coughs have frequently terminated in consumptions, and there are instances of dropy.

Fisheries, &c.—There is a tolerable harbour for boats and small ships at the mouth of the river Brora, which seems to have given rise to the Merchant Company before mentioned, who import goods from London and Aberdeen, and export linen-yarn manufactured from imported lint, and kelp made on the shores of this, and the neighbouring parishes of Loth and Gollipie, of which one of the partners has had a tack for some time past. Such of the inhabitants as are contiguous to the sea, fish in small boats with hand lines in summer, and are generally very successful. It is to be regretted that there is not a scheme laid to carry on the fishing on a more extensive scale. The sea, and even the very shores, abound with excellent fish; so that our more industrious neighbours, on the south side of the Frith, come to our coast and fish during the summer season, to great advantage. They frequently land their boats in our harbours, bait their lines, and never return home until they have a load of excellent fish. In the midst of the river Brora, the cruives for intercepting the fish, and the fishing on that river, though its run is only 3 miles, is let to a company at 100 l. Sterling. The Highland part of this parish, in common with the other Highlands of this country, is well provided in excellent peats for fuel, and the coast side is furnished with that useful commodity in greater abundance than the neighbouring parishes.

There is a spot of dry ground near Brora which turns out to little account at present, but would answer extremely well for a fishing village, or for carrying on a manufacture. There are joiners, coopers, taylor, weavers, shoemakers, smiths, wheelwrights,

wheelwrights, (no gardners,) in the parish; but it can hardly be said that any of these carry on business to any great purpose, or live entirely by their craft. There is one good mill on the coast side, and six equally good in the heights; as also three of the kind called Highland mills, whose wheels revolve in a horizontal direction.

Rent.—The writer cannot at present ascertain the exact contents of the arable part of the parish in square measure, nor even the valued rent or real, exactly; he thinks the real rent will amount to 330 bolls of victual, and about 500 l. Sterling.

Ecclesiastical State, Poor, &c.—The present stipend is exactly 80 bolls victual, and 22 l. 4 s. Sterling. It was settled in 1722. The incumbent has commenced a process of augmentation. There is no fund for the poor, except the weekly collections, which are very small, and inadequate to the supply of the few poor; but this defect is remedied by the alms given by the inhabitants to the begging poor, at mills, and their several dwellings. There are no religious sects in the parish. All the inhabitants profess the established religion, and attend public worship in the parish church. There is a preaching place, at the distance of about 8 miles from the church, called Aschoile, upon loch Brora, where of late the inhabitants of the parish have begun to bury their dead. The minister usually performs public worship there every fourth Sabbath; but, as the house at present is in disrepair, he cannot attempt public service there, but in favourable weather. There is no legal parish school, but there is a parish schoolmaster with 100 merks of salary, who teaches children reading, writing, and a little arithmetic, in his own house. There is no society school now, but there was one in Strathbrora for
many

many years, which was of unspeakable advantage to all the inhabitants of that district of the parish. And the parish now wants a benefit, that the people stand much in need of, value much, and would do any thing in their power to obtain.

Appearance of the Country, &c.—Loch Brora is a beautiful sheet of water, extending in length 4 measured miles, and near a mile in breadth. At two different places it is so contracted as to exhibit the appearance of three lochs. It abounds with salmon, jar, and other trout of different kinds. Near it on both sides are lofty mountains, at the feet of which are some beautiful villages, and several kinds of natural wood, chiefly belonging to Gordon of Carrall. The woods make a very picturesque appearance both in summer and winter *.

On

* *Antiquities.*—There is a super-structure of dry stone work, which bears the resemblance of an ancient work, and forms an island in the middle of the loch, at a considerable distance from the shore, surrounded by deep water. Tradition relates, that the island is artificially constructed, on an immense collection of stones brought there, so well selected and wrought, that it must have been a place of great security before the invention of fire arms. The figure of the island is an oblong square, consisting of two inferior squares of 70 feet diameter. It was divided into two parts; one half appropriated for lodgings in time of war; the other half laid out for the advantage of a garden. The walls are still pretty high, and ascend perpendicularly from the surface of the water, without a vestige of the island behind them, and are only accessible by two stairs which fronted the S. and E.; so that with plenty of stores and the fishing of the loch, abounding with salmon, trout, and eel, the place was rendered impregnable when properly defended. Among many reports of the good purposes of this island, there is one traditionary story repeated with pleasure by the inhabitants to this day. They tell that, on a certain occasion, the neighbourhood was suddenly invaded by a numerous army of Caithness men, which they were not prepared to resist. Upon this occasion they fled to the island for an asylum, where they were secure from the assaults of the enemy. Upon this, the invaders were so enraged, that they attempted daming up the narrow mouth of the loch, at which the river
breaks

On the south side of Loch Brora, there is a hill called Craig Bar, fortified with a ditch of circumvallation. It is a steep and rocky precipice, every way unaccessible, but by a narrow neck of land between it and a neighbouring hill. It contains about 8 acres of land, and could be easily defended against any number of assailants. It has probably taken its name from some captain of the name of Bar, who possessed it as a strong hold. There are several Pictish buildings on each side of the loch, forming a communication from the coast to the northern side of the peninsula. One village on the north side of the loch bears the name of the famous Icolmkill, for it is called Kilchalumkill, it seems to have been a consecrated place of interment, and to have derived its name from some saint or hero buried in it. In digging some ground at that place a cemetery was found, that contained large human bones, upon which a stop was put to the digging there. At some little distance from it, a year or two ago, a gentleman making out part of the high road, found a stone cross, which was immediately erected in the place where it was found, and is still to be seen there. There is another kill or cell on the same side of the loch, called Killeen, which implies that it was the burying place of John; there are also two other places above the loch called Killpheader, or the burying ground of Peter; the word kill or cell in the Celtic language signifying a narrow place or the grave. Most of the plains in
the

breaks out, and had made such progress in the work, that the islanders were obliged to take to their boats in the night-time, to accomplish their escape; but, being pursued, they would have all perished, had it not been for the seasonable assistance of the Clan Gun, who had marched from Strathulie upon hearing of the danger of their countrymen. The Caithness men, in consequence of this assistance, met with a total defeat; and the part of the river, or loch, at which they had been employed, retains to this day the name of Daman or Davan, which signifies a dam.

the parish on or near the coast, that have not been cultivated, seem evidently to have been the scenes of battles, as they are full of tumuli, containing human bones.

Rivers, Bridges, &c.—Several small streams from the neighbouring mountains and glens fall into the Loch of Brora: The most considerable of them is a small river that runs from the N. W. taking its rise in the forest of Clebrig in the parish of Far, and, passing through the north part of the parish of Rogart, is called the Water of Shiberfross; and another stream rises at the N. E. from the forest of Binormine, in the extremity of this parish, both which meet at a village called Kilphidder More, and fall together into the northmost end of Loch Brora.—There are no bridges worth mentioning, on any of the numerous burns or rivers in the parish, except one on the river at Brora, about a furlong above the place where it falls into the sea on the high road to Caithness and Orkney. Even this bridge, important as it is to the public, is in a state of great disrepair. The sea at full tide runs up in the river far above the bridge; and, at low water, it is four fathoms deep immediately below it.

Mines, Minerals, &c.—There seem to be mines of coal on the coast; pits of which have been at different times opened at Brora, and wrought as far back as the reign of Queen Elizabeth, as well as at different periods since, when coal has been found and exported to different places on the Murray and Cromarty Friths. All along the coast there are rocks of freestone, whence the hewn-stone work of all the houses in the neighbourhood, as well as grave-stones and pavement, are quarried. There are likewise quarries of limestone in the parish; one of them in a hill far above the level of the sea, and about a mile distant from the shore, which abounds with

various petrifications of shells; some of them exhibiting the full and perfect form of the original. In a burn that runs close by the parish kirk, there is a vein of clay as white as any chalk or even Spanish whitening; it is found to answer very well for plaster. Some specimens of it have been sent to Glasgow, and wrought into beautiful stone-ware.

N U M-

NUMBER XXV.

PARISH OF SALINE.

(Presbytery of Dunfermline.—Synod and County of Fife.)

By the Reverend Mr WILLIAM FORFAR.

Extent, Name, &c.

THE parish of Saline is 7 miles long from E. to W. and 6 broad at the center from S. to N. becoming gradually narrower towards the extremities. The E. part, and nearly the half, is hilly and marshy, the W. half very level. The most probable account of the origin of the name, according to the opinion of a gentleman conversant in toponomy, is this. Saline is a contraction for *Salvin* or *Salbin*, *bbean* or *bean*, pronounced *vin* or *bin*, signifies in Gaelic a hill or mountain; and it being natural for the Scotch to speak *ore aperto*, *fel* is easily converted into *sal*; it is also habitual for them to suppress the letter *v*, which may account for the formation of the name Saline as presently used. *Sal* or *fel* is either Gaelic, signifying *great*, or Saxon, signifying *great* or *good*. Hence *Salin* or *Salvin* will denote a great hill; and as the hill called Saline Hill is of considerable height, the parish, and the village which lies at the foot of it, may have derived their names from this circumstance. The perpendicular height

height of the hill, from the village where it begins to rise, is more than a quarter of a mile *.

Population.—The number of inhabitants in whole, including the sectaries, who do not exceed 20 or 30 persons, is 950, while the return to Dr Webster in 1755 was 1285. One cause of the decrease was the removal of a great number of cottars, possessing small tenements, which obliged them to seek refuge in other places. The number of proprietors is 23, including those of the barony of Inzievar, which belongs to this parish *quoad civilia*, and to the parish of Torryburn *quoad sacra*, and excluding 10 proprietors who have property in this parish *quoad sacra*, belonging to the parishes of Torryburn and Dunfermline *quoad civilia*. Of all these, only 10 reside in the parish. There are four freeholds; Killerny belonging to Major Aytoun; Nether Kinneddar to Mr Haly; Hillside to the Reverend Mr Colvil; and Inzievar to Mr Ronaldson.

Soil.—The soil is various, in general thin, and of a tilly bottom; some parts, however, are remarkably good, of a loamy nature, and easily wrought. Wheat, which is now coming more into use, has yielded 16 after 1, beans 15, barley 20, though usually seldom more than 8 or 10. There is
an

* The same gentleman hazards another conjecture of the origin of the name given to the hill, and consequently to the parish and village. There is an old ruin near the foot of Saline Hill, a little above the village, called Kill-erny. *Kill* and *cell* are known to be synonymous terms, to which the name of the founder or saint may have been added. Hence Kill-erny literally signifies the cell of Erny, and Saline Hill would most naturally obtain the name of Cell-vin, or the hill where the cell was. In support of this, the Celtic word for cellar is *seileir*, which still seems to accord with the present orthography of the name Saline.

an instance of oats yielding upwards of 40 from 1, thinly sown after burnt moss. Many parts are capable of great improvement, which hitherto have continued almost in a state of nature. There is much need of draining and summer ploughing. Lime is too little used. Even near the village and heart of the parish, there is much wet and waste ground, which, though capable of being fertilised and beautified by skill and industry, is likely still to excite in the traveller the idea of poverty and indolence. Green crops are but little in use. Planting and inclosing have been practised a little, though they are still too much neglected. There are large tracks of moss, some of which yield excellent peat for fuel. There are two natural woods; one of which was sold a few years ago for upwards of 500 l. Sterling; besides these, there is a good deal of fine old ash, and of young oak, ash, and fir, in a thriving condition.

Minerals.—The parish abounds with coal in every part; some of it remarkably good, though little or none is wrought, owing partly to the inactive spirit of the proprietors, but chiefly to the vicinity of Blairngone, which supplies all the country round at a low price. There is also lime, and a good deal of ironstone; the quality of the latter is remarkably good. Two of the proprietors have given a lease to the Donovan Company, one at $9\frac{1}{2}$ d. *per* ton, the other at 6 d. the Company working it, and paying damages.

Rent, Manufactures, &c.—The valued rent of the whole parish is 4078 l. 19 s. 4 d. Scotch. The real rent may be about 2500 l. Sterling. The proprietors assessed themselves some time ago for 48 ploughgates, though the real number may be 20 more. The two horse plough is now much used. Some farms are wholly let for grass, which, in the hilly parts
of

of the parish," are found to raise much better rents than tillage. There are only 2 farmers who keep sheep. There are no manufactories. There are 3 wrights, 4 taylors, 3 shoemakers, 3 smiths, 11 weavers, 8 masons, 1 brewer, and 1 maltster. There are three corn-mills, and one fulling-mill. Wages are much the same as in other places, and have been on the increase for some time.

Poor, &c.—The number of poor on the roll is 13, regularly supplied by the interest of a fund, amounting to 187 l. 15 s. 6 $\frac{2}{3}$ d. Sterling. It was formerly much greater, till more than 100 l. Sterling was lost by a failure. Besides the interest of the above sum, the collections made on Sabbath, with mortcloth money, marriages, &c. may amount to 12 l. Sterling, annually. There are no travelling poor belonging to this parish, though there is no want of such from other parishes; a practice which ought not to be tolerated in a well regulated state, as it extorts from charitable people, even against their own judgment, part of what they would otherwise bestow with more pleasure and advantage among the residing poor, whose characters and circumstances are known to them. Births at an average are about 16; deaths 10 or 12. The climate is healthy. There are no epidemical diseases peculiar to this parish. There are some instances of longevity, as in other places. Several have lived above 80; some above 90; one or two above 100 years. Within this century, there have flourished 15 ministers and preachers, 10 surgeons, 12 bred to the law, 6 writers, 6 schoolmasters, who were all born and received the rudiments of their education in this parish. For a long period, past it has been less prolific of learned men. At present there are none intended for any of the learned professions, except one, who has been for some time in the line of a writer.

Ecclesiastical

Ecclesiastical State and School.—The manse was built about 50 years ago; it is ruinous, and intended to be rebuilt this summer. The church is also in a bad state, having got no material repair for a long period; it will scarcely admit of repairs now, and probably must be soon rebuilt. The stipend, which needs much to be augmented, is only 1000 merks Scotch, including communion element money, which last is no more than 1 l. 5 s. 9 d. Sterling, a sum four times less than the minister's actual expences on that occasion: This small sum is never paid but when the sacrament is administered, even when it is not in the minister's power to do so. The whole is paid in money; formerly there was part in victual. There has been no augmentation for 50 years past. The glebe is small but good. There was a considerable quantity of excellent wood growing on it, planted about 70 years ago, by the Reverend Mr Bryce. Some of the heritors, ignorant of the law and the rights of a clergymen to every thing growing on his glebe, cut it down, and sold it for 30 l. Sterling, immediately after the death of the last incumbent. The presbytery, as guardians, interfered; and, by the exertions of such of the heritors as had all along disapproved of the unjustifiable measure taken by the rest, the matter was at length amicably settled, and the money, arising from the sale of the trees, was paid to the present incumbent shortly after his settlement. There have been only 4 ministers here since the revolution; Messrs Wyllie, Plenderleith, Bryce, and Hunter. The last was settled in the year 1732, was 60 years minister in Saline, and died at the age of 95; his wife and children all died long before him. The present incumbent was settled on the 24th of January 1793. The crown is the undoubted patron.

The whole emoluments of the schoolmaster, including perquisites for marriages, &c. may amount to 20 l. Sterling yearly, a sum by far too little for so large a parish, and so useful

useful an office. School fees 1 s. 6 d. a quarter for reading, 2 s. for writing, 2 s. 6 d. for arithmetic, 3 s. for Latin, which is seldom taught here *.

Character.—The people, a few excepted, are sober, industrious, sensible, discreet, and peaceable, of as little superstition and as much religion as their neighbours. They have been long distinguished for their regular and decent attendance on public worship, and have not yet forfeited the praise which

* There are no antiquities in the parish, unless the remains of two old towers and some cairns on the tops of hills, may be reckoned such. One of the towers called Killerny, part of which is yet standing, seems to have been pretty large. It consisted of two parts, called the N. and S. built at different times. The date of the S. or newest part, which consisted chiefly of one large room, all arched and very high, was 1592. That of the other, which probably was a cell or hermitage, is unknown. The estate on which it stands is said to have belonged formerly to one Scot of Balneiry; and some fabulous stories are told about the murder of his lady and child, by the undertaker whom she employed to build the S. part for a summer-house, but did not pay according to paction. As a punishment for his crime, he is said to have been confined in a part of the tower called the prison, and fed on his own flesh till he died. Some of the inhabitants have a song which celebrates these supposed tragical events, but its merit is not such as to entitle it to a place in the Statistical Account of Scotland. There is neither record nor oral tradition as to the date or founder of the other tower called the Kirkland tower, part of which still remains. It stands very near the church, on part of the lands formerly belonging to the bishop at Dunkeld, which still bear the name of the Kirklands, now belonging to Sir William Erskine of Torrie. It can hardly be doubted, were the matter to be investigated, but the glebe, which is said to be less than the law allows, would be entitled to an addition from these lands. The remains of two camps, as they are called, are still to be seen, one on Saline hill, another on the low grounds; the last is said to have been Roman. They are both of a circular figure, and probably were originally sheep or cattle folds, built with some strength and art, in times when rapine and plunder were the means of subsistence.

which is due to them on this account. They are averse to long preachings, long prayers, and long psalms; their ideas of religion and morality, in general, are tolerably sound and rational. Those in better circumstances, of whom there is a good number in this parish, are sociable, polite, and hospitable.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The village of Saline strikes a traveller by its beautiful and rural situation. It lies in the center of the parish, in a place which, being mostly surrounded with rising ground, is sometimes called the Bafon. It consists, if small things may be compared with great, of the old and new town, and contains in all, including the suburbs, 200 inhabitants. A river, running through the middle, divides the old and new town; which last has risen within these few years, excels the other, both in the number and neatness of its buildings, and is still on the increase; were manufactures introduced, and encouragement given, it might soon become considerable. The whole village consists of small feus, all belonging to Sir William Erskine of Torrie, and the ground is usually let at 2 l. an acre. There are four public houses; none of which afford proper accommodation either for men or horses. The chief article which is sold, pernicious frequently both to health and morals, is whisky. It is not long since an inhabitant of the parish was killed by it, and was carried from the public house to his grave; and soon after, another not more wise, nor warned by his example, had nearly shared the same fate. One good public house would be better than the whole; and as the great road from Dunfermline to Auchtermarder runs through the village, a man of character and substance who could afford proper accommodation, might meet with great encouragement. It is the most central place between the Ferry and Glendovan, for travellers to

halt at; and if the proprietor were to build such a house, and let it to one who could afford to brew and bake, he would receive more than common interest for his money, would confer a public benefit on the parish and on travellers, besides increasing and ornamenting the village, which he has the pleasure to see in a thriving and promising condition*.

* There is a practice here, too common in most places, which, it were much to be wished, was abolished or less used. When any one is taken ill, the neighbours think it their duty, or a piece of civility, immediately to frequent the house, and even crowd the room where the patient lies; which must be attended with very bad effects. Even where the small-pox or fevers are raging, mothers with their children in their arms attend without scruple, a practice rather tempting, than trusting in providence, as it is unnecessarily exposing themselves to danger, which might be easily avoided. On these occasions, they are all physicians; they feel the pulse, shake their heads, and have an unlucky turn to foreboding the worst. I have known a man given up by his neighbours, who, in three or four days after, has been working in the stone quarry; and several persons are still alive, in very good health at this day, and likely to see some carried to their graves, who had long ago pronounced their doom.

A kin to this is a notion too common, though a mistaken one, that the minister of the parish should almost constantly attend the bed-side of the sick. Where persons are worn down with age and infirmity, and have been long deprived of public instruction, they have a right to see their minister, to converse with him, and receive consolation, and so in other cases, where distress does not wholly unfit for conversation. But what can a minister, if he has not some skill in physic, do or say to one in the rage of a fever? he pretends not to work miracles, the patient means not to make confession, to take the sacrament, or to receive extreme unction. When custom is on the side of what is right and profitable, it ought to be preserved and encouraged; if otherwise, however popular, it should receive no countenance.

N U M B E R XXVI.

UNITED PARISHES OF KILNIN-
VER AND KILMELFORT.

(*Presbytery of Lorn.—Synod and County of Argyle.*)

By the Reverend Mr PATRICK CAMPBELL.

Name and Extent.

THE strictest research into the etymology and meaning of ancient names must often terminate in probable conjecture; and the following account of the names of those parishes lays claim to no higher authority.—*Kil-an-inver* signifies the chapel or burying-ground at the foot of the water, it being situated where the Water of Euchar discharges itself into the sea.—*Kil-na-maol-phort*, contracted Kilmelfort, signifies in the Gaelic language the chapel, or burying-place, of the round bays or harbours, viz. Lochmelfort, which runs three miles into the middle of this parish, ending in two round bays with good anchoring ground, where ships of any burden may ride in safety.—Taken together, the united parishes are nearly of a square form, extending from E. to W. and from N. to S. about 12 measured miles. Kilmelfort lies south of Kilninver; but in populousness, valuation, and extent, does not exceed the one half of the other. The minister preaches in both alternately; the distance betwixt the two places of worship is six miles.

Soil

Soil and Surface.—The lower parts of these parishes on the W. are generally smooth sloping declivities towards the sea, and consist of light loam upon gravel or rock, yielding, when properly cultivated, and in favourable seasons, good crops of corn, bear, and potatoes. The upper parts, towards the E. and S. are mountainous, environed with a ridge of hills, which separate them from the parishes of Kilmore, Dallavich, and Craignish. The soil in Gleneuchar, and the Braes of Lorn in the parish of Kilninver, and in the higher lands in the parish of Kilmelfort is poor and gravelish, yielding little crop, fit only for pasturage, and occupied mostly with sheep. A few farms, however, are stocked almost wholly with black cattle.—There is in these parishes a good deal of natural wood such as oak, ash, birch, hazel, alder, &c. Some parts also are planted with firs, which thrive very well. The tops of the hills, none of which are remarkably high or rugged, are covered with heath interspersed with stripes of coarse pasture, well adapted for sheep.

Sea Coast.—These united parishes have six miles of a sea coast towards the N. and W. from the middle of Lochfeachin, to the west end of the Sound of Clacharsoail. In the mouth of Lochfeachin, a bank of sand lies across its channel; and, therefore, it is navigable only by small craft of about 50 or 60 tons burden. At the foot of the Water of Euchar, and without this bank, two points of high land jutting out into the Sound of Mull, form a wide extensive bay with good anchoring ground, but somewhat exposed to the N. W. the stormy quarter on this coast. From thence to the Sound of Clachanfoail, there is a bold, rocky, and dangerous coast. The Sound of Clachanfoail is about two miles long, and separates the Island of Soail and parish of Kilbrandan from the Continent. The Sound is narrow, being no more than

80 feet over, and admits vessels of only between 10 and 20 tons burden, as it is dry and passable at low water, in some parts, both for men and horses. It runs smooth and straight, with a strong current, and forms a beautiful canal. Formerly there was a ferry boat here, but lately there has been a bridge built over it, consisting of a single arch, 72 feet wide, and 27 feet above the highest water mark. At both ends of the sound there is good and safe anchorage; the whole forming a most delightful and picturesque scenery.

Lochmelfort gives a sea coast of six miles, and makes a beautiful and safe roadstead. Herrings frequent this loch and the west end of the sound of Clachansoail, and sometimes Lochfeachin, but they have been taken in greater quantity at Lochmelfort, where of late years a good deal have been caught. A good haddock bank has lately been discovered in this loch; and the coast upon the sound of Mull abounds plentifully with sea-fish in great variety. These shores furnish also most kinds of shell-fish, lobsters, crabs, oysters, spout-fish, hose-fish, cockles, and muscles.

Rivers and Lakes.—These are the river Euchar, running through the middle of the parish of Kilninver from the E. to the N. W. and having its source in a lake of a mile and a half long and near a mile broad, called Lochseammadale. Into this lake or loch the water of Braegleon, and a number of rivulets descending from the neighbouring hills, discharge themselves. From this lake the river Euchar runs for 4 miles N. W. receiving in its course several tributary streams and rivulets, till it empties itself, at the embouchure of Lochfeachin, into the Sound of Mull. At this place there is a good salmon fishing, besides many others upon that loch. The river Oude, which takes its rise also from a lake in the braes of Lorn, called Lochtralig, of a mile long and about half

half a mile broad, runs through a part of the parish of Kilmilver towards the east, and thence, taking its course southwards for 4 miles, falls into the head of Lochmelfort. These rivers are stored with salmon, white and muir trout, and eels. And upon Lochmelfort itself, where the Oude forms its junction with the sea, there is a salmon fishing. There are a great number of other, but smaller, rivers, lakes, and rivulets, in these parishes, well supplied with trout, and some of them admit salmon into their mouth at spawning time *.

Population.—These parishes have, within these few years; greatly increased in population, owing to the young men's continuing at home, and settling in the parish in time of peace, for war always drain off the youth.

In

* The climate here, as indeed on all the west coast, is excessively rainy and moist. The S. W. and westerly winds, driving the clouds and exhalations from the great Atlantic Ocean, are constantly accompanied with rain, as the E. and N. E. winds, passing over a great track of continent, are generally dry. Hence our rainy summers and harvests, though commonly favourable to pasturage, are very unfriendly to agriculture. From our vicinity to the Atlantic, the winters are open and temperate; snow seldom lies deep, or above two days together, on the low grounds of the west coast. Notwithstanding the moisture of the climate, the people of those parishes are healthy, and live to a good old age; many till 90, a few to 100 years. The most common diseases are rheumatic complaints, colds, and cholics, the constant attendants upon moist and rainy climates, bring often along with them consumptions, and other lingering, but deadly, disorders. Formerly the small-pox made great ravages among the children, especially upon the sea-coast, where the inhabitants feed much upon fish. But inoculation is now practised with great success, and the lower class of people have quite got the better of the prejudices which they once entertained against it, and which nothing but a conviction from experience of its salutary effects, could have overcome.

In 1755, the return to Dr Webster was, souls	1045
In 1790, the number of souls was	1102
In 1793	1178
Families	205
Males	585
Females	593
Above 10	903
Below 10	275
Annual average of marriages for the last 6 weeks	12
Of baptisms	22

No family has emigrated to America from those parishes during the present ministers incumbency, being a space of thirty-five years. No person has been banished nor suffered capitally; nor has any instance of suicide nor child murder, occurred within that period.

Cattle and Sheep.—The breed of horses, black cattle, and sheep, have been much improved in these parishes of late years. Plough horses, according to the kind and size, sell at from 8 l. to 12 l.; aged stots from 5 l. to 7 l.; cows from 3 l. to 6 l.; black-faced sheep, all of the south country kind, from 12 s. to 14 s.; black ewes from 4 s. 6 d. to 6 s. 6 d.; hogs at 8 s.; lambs at 4 s. and 5 s.; wool at 7 s. *per* stone, when white; tarred wool at 5 s. *per* stone, 24 lib. weight to the stone. The old small highland white-faced sheep are still retained in those parishes by the small tenants; though less in size, they are finer in the wool, and reckoned more delicate eating, than the large black-faced sheep. They sell, when fat, at from 6 s. to 8 s. Six of the farms in the higher parts of those parishes are stocked entirely with sheep; all the other farms partly with sheep, and partly with cows and horses. Contrary to the common and received opinion, it is found that the hogs and lambs are less than usual subject to sickness,

nefs, braxy, or rot, in this promiscuous pasturage. There is no farm in those parishes but has sheep in it more or less. It is difficult to ascertain with precision the number of each kind of cattle. They may, however, be computed safely as follows * :

Horses	-	-	-	-	-	250
Black cattle	-	-	-	-	-	1500
Sheep	-	-	-	-	-	7000

Rental.—It is not easy to ascertain the real rent of those parishes, as some one or other of the proprietors has a new set of the whole or some part of his lands every year. It is still more difficult to estimate the value of the casualties they pay in kain fowls, &c. and the personal services they are obliged to perform. It may, however, be computed at about 1600 l. Sterling of real rent yearly. The valued rent is 247 l. 7 s. 8 d. Sterling.

Ecclesiastical State, Poor, &c —The Duke of Argyle is patron of Kilmelfort; and the Earl of Breadalbane is patron and

* There is a great variety of game. Of quadrupeds, there are roes, hares, martins, polecats, weasels, and otters. Of the feathered kind, there are black-cock or heath fowl, muir-fowl or grouse, wood-cocks, snipes, grey and green plovers, and some partridges; wild-duck and water-fowl of all the kinds that are usually to be found upon the west coast of Scotland.

The wages of servants have advanced to nearly double what they were 20 years ago. The usual day wages to a man servant is 1 s. sometimes 1 s. 2 d. without victuals. Women are seldom hired at days wages or by the day. Carpenters and masons, according to their skill and experience, get from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s. *per* day without maintainance. Taylors and Shoemakers 8 d. besides their victuals. Household men servants from 5 l. to 6 l. a-year. Maid servants from 1 l. 15 s. to 2 l. 10 s. and shoes.

and principal heritor of Kilninver, and indeed proprietor of more than one half of this pastoral charge. The patrons present *per vices*. The present incumbent was settled upon a presentation from the Earl of Breadalbane. There are in whole eight heritors, two of whom only at present reside in those parishes. The stipend, by decret of the Court of Session in 1763, is four chalders of meal, and 600 merks Scots in money, making in whole, at the common conversion, 1200 merks Scots, or 66 l. 13 s. 4 d. Sterling, with 5 l. for communion elements. The glebe is set at 10 l. Sterling yearly. There is no manse; but the present minister rents the small farm of Kilninver from Lord Breadalbane, and has built a good farm house upon it with some assistance from his Lordship; he is allowed only 5 l. Sterling yearly in lieu of his manse. A neat little church has last year been built at Kilninver. The church at Kilmelfort has been rebuilt during the present incumbency. The number of poor upon the poors roll for this present year is 29. These are supported from the Sunday collections, and fines for delinquencies, amounting yearly to about 10 l. Sterling, and by begging from house to house through the parish. There are three schools in these parishes; a parochial school, and two schools erected by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, at which above 100 boys and girls are taught *.

* The antiquities are confined to a few cairns or tumuli, and some monumental stones of a huge size, erected perpendicularly, where, tradition says, some chief or hero had finished his course, and been interred in the customary manner with his armour. There is also a watch tower or beacon, built upon a promontory stretching out into the Sound of Mull: But the time and occasion of those erections have been lost in the mist of antiquity, and tradition is totally silent upon those circumstances, which could alone render the inquiry either amusing or useful.

Miscellaneous Observations.—Thirty years ago very little white oats were sown in those parishes. Only small black oats were thrown into the ground, of which above a firloft went to make a stone dark and weak meal. In the higher lands, three bolls of those small black oats rendered only a boll of meal 8 stone weight. At present very little of those small black oats are used, and only in high grounds, as being least liable to be shaken by the wind, and better suited to the feeding of out lying cattle. Within these few years, some improvement has been made in the mode and implements of husbandry. The English plough with two horses and without a driver is generally used; and most farmers keep a cart. Of late, some of the low arable farms have been divided into three or four small farms, and inclosed, which promises to turn out to the advantage of both landlord and tenant, as thereby a spirit of industry and emulation is awakened and kept up, the land better manured and cultivated; rye, grass, and clover raised, and more oats, bear, and potatoes, procured in proportion to the sowing than heretofore. These are the natural consequences of the tenants having liberty to act freely, and unthralled by the will and opinions of three or four neighbours. This plan has also been followed by a necessary reduction in the number of cows and horses, by which means those kept are better reared and fed.

It was a prevailing error of old, still not quite worn out, in the management of pasture land, to put in too many cattle, and in agriculture to plough much without manuring properly. Out-field land, as formerly manured in this country by summer folding, or teathing, will not pay the cost of seed and labour, not to mention the great hurt done to the cattle. A few acres, well manured and cultivated, will yield a greater and better return than double the number of acres poorly manured and cultivated, and the pasturage will be considerably

ably meliorated and enlarged. But though the subdividing of low arable land into small farms, or large crofts, may be most beneficial, it is quite the reverse in hill and high pasture land. The greater the range for sheep and young black cattle the better, and the expence of management the less. It is an unjust and ill founded allegation, that the planting our hills and high pasture land with sheep has desolated our country, and been the chief cause of emigration to America. To elucidate this position, it is to be observed, that formerly these hills and high lands were grazed by stots, young cattle, or dry cows to fatten for market; very often only by goats, roe, and red deer. The largest hill or glen planted with black cattle required only one herd to tend them, as well as the sheep do; so that both these methods of management, the stocking with black cattle or with sheep, thus far make no alteration in the population. But when it is further considered, that the black cattle, pastured on the hills and high lands in summer, could not be kept there in winter, without great danger of perishing, as they often did, it must be evident that a certain considerable track of low lying land, behoved to be withdrawn from the plough, and appropriated to the support of those cattle which had pastured on the hills in summer. Of this fact any person who travels through the highlands of Scotland, and observes how much low arable land is laid waste into winter inclosures for black cattle, must be fully sensible. So far then is the planting our hills and high glens with sheep from depopulating our country, that the very reverse appears manifestly to be the case, especially in these and the neighbouring parishes. And when to this it is added, that the hills and higher lands yield better returns from sheep than from any other stock, that the sheep sweeten and enrich the land and grafs, and that they soon convert the dreary barren hill, and black heath into fine, rich,

rich, and green pasture, no doubt ought to remain that the stocking these hills with sheep, are, in every respect, not only not prejudicial, but highly beneficial, to our country.

The great and chief cause of the frequent and numerous emigrations from the highlands to America, is the natural sterility of the soil, which does not furnish the means of subsistence proportioned to the increasing population and number of inhabitants; and, therefore, when they cannot procure employment in their native country, they are of necessity obliged to search for it in distant and more fertile climes; and as America, from common report, true or false, promises the best and readiest supply of their more immediate wants, the rage of emigration to that quarter part of the globe, has prevailed much of late years. If the Highlander could find employment and the means of comfortable, or even bare, subsistence at home, (and his wants are not numerous) such is his attachment to the *natale solum*, that he would never think of banishing himself for ever from his country in order to better his condition. It is no doubt true, that the ill-judged and unfeeling oppression of some landlords in the Highlands of Scotland in raising the rent of their lands beyond what the tenants can bear or pay, and in exacting of them personal services so grievous, that they cannot attend to the proper management of their own possessions, has been a productive cause of emigration to America. The disadvantages are numerous. A rainy stormy climate; autumn floods and equinoctial storms, which often frustrate the labours of the industrious farmer; and what is a greater discouragement, he who raises the best and most luxuriant crop, is sure to suffer most from the climate by lodging and shaking. Only early and green crops can be cultivated to any advantage in such a climate. It is no unwarrantable assertion that the best and richest land upon the west coast will

will yield a better return, and pay a higher rent, in grass and pasturage, than in raising corn or grain. Another disadvantage to the inhabitants on the west coast is their great distance from proper markets to sell their cattle, and supply themselves with meal, grain, and the other necessaries of life, more particularly fuel. Their ordinary fuel, peats, for the most part in the high muirs and inaccessible ground, troublesome in the making and casting, require much time and many hands, and after all the drying and securing of them, uncertain and precarious in a climate subject to great rains. This is the principal personal service required by the landlord from his tenant in those parishes, and not likely to be discontinued, as no gentleman or possessor of a farm can keep such a number of servants as are necessary to secure a sufficiency of peats for the consumpt of his family, and day labourers cannot be had. The wise and judicious removal of the coal-duty, particularly if it shall be joined with the introduction of manufactures, will tend more to the comfort and improvement of the highlands, than any thing that has yet been devised.

NUMBER XXVII.

PARISH OF CARNWATH.

(County and Presbytery of Lanark.—Synod of Glasgow and Ayr.)

By the Reverend Mr GEORGE MARK.

Extent, Name, &c.

THE parish of Carnwath is of considerable extent, measuring 12 miles from S. to N. and 8 from E. to W. Its form is pretty regular, being that of an oblong square, one corner excepted, where the parish of Dunfyre comes in a little.

The name Carnwath is compounded of *carn* or *cairn*, so common in Britain, and *wath*, which in the Saxon language signifies the ford or passage of a river. This name is descriptive of the situation of the place; for the little brook, which runs past the west lower end of the town, is not easily fordable on horseback for a considerable way either above or below the village.

Soil, &c.—The soil is different in different parts of the parish. Round the village and neighbourhood the lands are sandy, with a mixture more or less of black loam. The holms of Clyde on the S. W. are a rich deep clay; the holms of Medwin on the S. much more inclined to sand, owing to the sandy grounds through which that water runs for a considerable

able way above. In the muirland parts of the parish the arable lands are either a cold stiff clay, or moss, with clay or sand at bottom. The pasture grounds in these places are equally different. In the dale land part (as it is here called) the grass is sweet and good, fit either for rearing or fattening black cattle or sheep, but in the muirland parts a large portion of the pasture is boggy ground, which produces plenty of a coarse four bent grass, calculated for rearing, but not for fattening, the cattle that are pastured upon it. Large tracts of such pasture lie along the banks of every rivulet which runs through the northern parts of the parish.

In the extensive estate of Count Lockhart of Lee and Carnwath, turnip farming has been lately introduced, with a certain rotation of crops to follow the turnip course, which the tenants, by their leases, are bound to observe. The greater part of that estate in this district seems to be well calculated for that mode of farming, as it is in general dry, inclined to sand; but when the turnips are carried entirely off the field, for the purpose of feeding cattle in the house, (which is the common practice at present), such crop is found to impoverish our sandy land exceedingly; so that if the farmer does not restore to the ground the dung produced by the turnips, he may lay his account with a very scanty crop of barley the following season. The reason seems to be, that the grounds, from the sandy nature of the soil, are easily pulverised, and give their whole vegetable strength at once to the production of the turnips, and must therefore be renewed with dung to put them into a condition for producing another crop. This new mode of farming, which was exceedingly unpopular with the tenants at its first introduction, bids fair, however, to increase greatly the rent of the lands, and to better the condition of the tenants. A few years ago there was no such thing known in this district as a turnip-fed bullock

bullock or cow ; but now there is not a tenant, who holds his farm by a late lease, who does not feed from 5 to 10, and some of them upwards of 20, black cattle every season, which have hitherto turned to very good account, each yielding from 2 l. to 3 l. 10 s. profit, and sometimes more. The land, after the turnip crop, is sown down with barley, clover, and rye grass; the grass is cut the year following, and pastured for the next four, and at second lifting is subjected to a different rotation.

In the muirland part of the parish the turnip farming has not as yet been much tried ; and, indeed, neither the soil nor climate seem to be fitted for such a crop. Neither the dale nor muirland part of the parish has been much esteemed for the production of pease. There is in general plenty of straw, but often very little grain. When the land in the muirs is properly cleaned, and sown down with clover and rye-grass, it seldom fails to produce an excellent crop of hay.

In the mossy lands there is a peculiar mode of cultivation observed. When the moss is deep, and so soft as not to bear the plough horses in winter, it is sometimes ploughed in the drought of summer ; burnt when so dry as to burn, the ashes spread over the whole, and then sown down in the spring, without any further cultivation, with barley and oats ; and in favourable seasons a very rich crop is produced. Moss, of this kind, repeatedly burnt, becomes thinner and thinner, till it disappears almost or altogether, and leaves the clay, that was once three or four feet down, on the surface. Some hundreds of acres have been converted in this manner from moss to arable land ; and it is probable, that in half a century there will be but little moss of this kind in the parish, in comparison of what there is at present. But there are other extensive mosses in this district, commonly called flowes, which it is not probable ever will, or ever can be, converted
into

into arable land. Some of these flowes are found to be 20, 25, or 30 feet deep, and are, besides, such a dead level, that the water has little or no descent; and even supposing they should be cast, or burnt to the bottom, standing pools of dirty water could only stand in their place.

Every farmer in the parish raises potatoes, in greater or less quantities, for the use of their families; they are sometimes used also for feeding their labouring or fattening their other cattle. The cottars and poor people in the village of Carnwath and the other villages of the parish, have allowed them, by the neighbouring farmers, ground for planting 2, 3, or 4 pecks of potatoes, for such a number of days shearing in the harvest as can be agreed upon, insomuch that the potatoes raised in this manner make a considerable part of the food of these poor people for more than six months in the year. This root answers exceedingly well with our sandy lands, which produce not only large quantities, but good in their kind; but the cold stiff clay does not answer so well. The farmers observe that they have better crops from potatoe than from turnip land, with an equal quantity of dung.

Little flax is sown in the parish, excepting for domestic purposes; what is raised for sale is exceeding trifling. The poor people have commonly, along with their cottage, ground for sowing half a peck of lintseed. The flax thus raised is partly applied to family use, the remainder spun in winter into yarn of a spindle *per* pound, which is in general sold to the Glasgow manufacturers, at Lanark fairs, from 2 s. 2 d. to 2 s. 6 d. Oats and barley, or beer, are the common crops of this district; and on these the farmer principally depends for the payment of his rent. It is difficult to ascertain the value of the land in this parish, as there are some thousand acres in it not worth 6 d. *per* acre. The infield land about the village and neighbourhood is let from 20 s. to 30 s. or

1 l. 15 s. *per* acre; the holms on Clyde and Medwin are valued at about 15 s. *per* acre, and the outfield lands from 5 s. to 10 s. Besides the grounds already described, there are a few extensive sheep farms, mostly covered with heath, better fitted for breeding and rearing sheep, than fattening them for the butcher. Excepting a few small flocks kept in the lower part of the parish, these flocks consist of ewes bought in, in the spring, the lambs sold in the summer commonly to the Glasgow, Hamilton, or Linlithgow butchers, and the ewes sold to the same at the end of harvest. The sheep kept in the parish may amount altogether to about 7000. The number of black cattle, young and old, may amount to nearly 1700; and the ploughs in the parish to about 80; and as these are, in general, drawn by four horses, the number of the latter is consequently 320. Besides, few of the farmers possessing a ploughgate of land, have some two, others three, or perhaps four young horses; and the small tenants have one or two for the purpose of driving coals, or meal for the Glasgow market; so that the total number of horses may be nearly estimated at 700.

Manufactures.—There are no manufactures carried on in this parish, (Wilfontown excepted,) but what are necessary for supplying the consumption of the inhabitants. There are considerable numbers of weavers both in the village, and in different parts of the parish; but their sole employment is to weave the cloth wanted for the private use of their neighbours. There are a few stocking-weavers in the place who work for the Glasgow manufacturers; and an expert and diligent tradesman in this line may earn from 2 s. to 2 s. 6 d. *per* day.

At Wilfontown, in the northern part of the parish, an extensive iron-foundry was some years ago erected by two brothers,

thers, of the name of Wilfon, of the Cleugh family, Swedish merchants in London, both gentlemen of interprife and large capital; and although the manufacture is unluckily fubjected to a temporary ftagnation, yet no doubt can be entertained of its turning out a very beneficial fpeculation to the proprietors. This work is peculiarly happy in its fituation with refpect to materials, for in the very ground on which the blaft furnaces are erected (two in number) there are coal, ironftone, limeltone, and fire-clay, all effentially neceffary for carrying on the manufacture; and perhaps there is not a work of the kind in Britain, which has all thefe materials fo near at hand, and in fuch abundance. The land carriage of the iron to the neareft port, Borrowftounnels, is about 18 miles, and to Leith about 27; but, by a line of road now marked out, the diftance to Leith will be reduced to about 21 miles. The carriage in fummer is about 8s. and in winter 10s. *per* ton.—The workmen, of different descriptions, employed before the temporary ftagnation mentioned above, fuch as, furnace-men, forge-men, miners, coalliers, &c. with their families, may be computed at upwards of 400. The blaft furnaces are employed in cafting pig-iron, and ten forges in converting thefe pigs into blooms, a name given to the iron before it undergoes the laft operation, viz. beating out into bars.

Population.—There are about 3000 in the parifh, of thefe,

1397 Males

1603 Females.

And of the whole number there are below

8 years of age - - - 432

The number of fouls to each family in the

village of Carnwath is on an average - - $3\frac{1}{4}$ nearly

The

The number in the country part of the
parish - - - - - 4⁵/₆

The return to Dr Webster in 1755 was - 2390 souls.

As the register of births and baptisms in the parish is very incomplete, no certain computation can be founded upon; and the reason is, that many of the Dissenters do not register the names of their children at all; nor does the register of marriages afford more certain grounds on which to proceed, as some of the Cameronians do not give in their names for proclamation of banns, and many more go into Edinburgh, and are there privately married; some by the established clergy on extract of proclamation of banns from the session-clerks of Edinburgh, and some by persons unknown.

The Dissenters of different denominations such as, Burghers, Antiburghers, of the Relief congregation, and Cameronians, amount to about one in ten of the whole number of parishioners. Conveniency greatly increases the number of the Burgher Dissenters, as the northern parts of the parish lie considerably nearer to the Seceding Meeting-House at Long Ridges in the parish of Whitburn than to the parish church, and the roads to the former are much better.—The population of the parish would have suffered a very great decrease of late, had there not been a considerable influx of strangers to the Wilsontown works. The inhabitants of the village of Carnwath are greatly diminished within these 5 years. In 1788 the present incumbent took up an accurate list of the examinable persons in the parish, the number of these in the village (*i. e.* from 8 years old and upwards) was 498: In 1793 he made up an exact list of the number of souls, and found the whole to be no more than 500; so that in little more than 4 years the number of inhabitants had decreased about 70. This diminution was occasioned by many of the low
houses

houses being allowed to fall into ruins; and the reason of this was, that the tenants in the place, at the last let of the lands, had such a small pittance allowed to each, that they could not afford their cottagers any longer the ground necessary for their potatoes and lint, which had formerly gone along with the cottage. Newbigging, another considerable village in the parish, is also diminished in the number of its inhabitants, though not to such a degree as Carnwath.

Heritors and Rent.—There are many heritors in this parish; the most considerable are, Count Lockhart of Lee and Carnwath, Lord Braxfield, William Bertram of Nisbet, Sir James Stewart Denholm of Coltness and Wichfield, John and William Wilsons of Wilfontown, William Tenant of Pool, Mrs Lockhart of Eastfield, Mr Logan of Woodend, and upwards of 30 more. These last, two or three excepted, reside on their own property, consisting of farms from 80 l. down to 10 l. of annual rent, which they, in general, occupy themselves. The House of Carnwath never was the residence of the Lockhart family, but has been occasionally used as a hunting-seat. The only heritor of note who resides constantly in the parish is William Bertram, Esq; at Kerfwell, about two English miles from Carnwath.—The valued rent of the parish is upwards of 5000 l. Scotch; the real rent, putting a proper value on the farms possessed by the different proprietors, is about 5000 l. Sterling.

Rivers and Lakes.—Of these the Clyde, on the S. W. boundary, is the most considerable. The N. and S. Medwins, which unite their streams on the S. about a mile before they fall into the river Clyde; Dippool, which divides the parish nearly into equal parts, and Cleugh Burn, are but small rivulets compared with the Clyde. There is plenty of trout in these

these streams. Large pike are also found in the old runs of the Clyde. The water that comes from the iron-works seems to be unfriendly to trouts, as none are to be found for a great way below the works, where they formerly abounded. Few eels are found in any of these waters, and no salmon above the falls of the Clyde. There is a lake $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile to the W. of the village of Carnwath, more than a mile in circumference; small perch are the only fish found in it.

Minerals, &c.—On the N. side of Dippool, coal, iron, and limestone abound every where; the springs and small streams on this side are, in general, hard water, not good for tea, washing, or for watering flax. To the S. of this water, no coal, and little iron and limestone have been discovered; and the springs and small streams on this side are commonly soft. Freestone abounds in every part of the parish. At Wilfontown the freestone is of a greyish white colour, soft when taken out of the quarry, but hardening when exposed for a time to the air. Stones of any dimension may be raised out of the quarries at Wilfontown. In the south parts of the parish the freestone is of a reddish colour. Although none of the rising grounds in the parish can with propriety be called a mountain, yet Leven Seat, on the northern boundary, is about 1200 feet above the bed of the Clyde, but as the ascent is long and gradual, it does not appear to the eye to be so high as it is in reality*.

Pcor.

* There are but few antiquities and curiosities in this district worthy of notice. At the west end of the village of Carnwath, there is a large tumulus or moat evidently artificial, of a form somewhat elliptical, the diameter from E. to W. longer than that from N. to S. There is an opening on the top which has been the entrance of a rude turnpike sort of stair, that once reached to the bottom, but is at present filled up with stones and rubbish thrown in from time to time by young and idle people.
This

Poor.—Two hundred pounds had many years ago been mortgaged by the Westfield family, for the behoof of the poor of the

This seems to suggest that it was not only originally meant for, but intended to continue, a burying-place: It is surrounded with a deep ditch and large mound round the whole. It was, upwards of 40 years ago, planted with Scotch firs, which have grown but slowly.

On the west side of the large moss or cave to the north of the village, on a narrow point of dry land that juts out a little into the moss, are the ruins of the Castle of Couthalley, the seat of the ancient family of Sommerville, a branch of the Sommersvilles of Whitmor in England, and which settled in this country about the middle of the 12th century. This family, the most powerful and opulent in this part of the country, were at one time possessed of the baronies of Carnwath and Liberton in Clydesdale, and of Linton in Tweeddale. Sir John Somerville of Carnwath and Linton was a steady and faithful adherent of Robert Bruce, in the violent and bloody contest he had to maintain for the crown. This Castle has once been a place of great strength, surrounded with an exceeding deep ditch and large earthen mound, the entry being by a draw-bridge on the W. Tradition says that it got the name Couthalley, (which signifies a warm sheltered walk or avenue,) because at this time there was an avenue from the Castle all the way to the village of Carnwath, bordered on each side by full grown oaks; and what seems to give weight and confirmation to this tradition, is, that when this moss is dug to the bottom, large oaks are often found, some of them in a surprising state of preservation, considering the amazing depth at which they now lie. Besides oaks, there are also Scotch firs, birches, alder, hazel, &c. found at the bottom. Some of the nuts appear entire till touched, but the slightest touch breaks them to pieces. The vegetables found on the surface of this moss are a dry stunted kind of heath, and a strong thick white moss, vulgarly called fog. What is singular, the peats dug out of this moss to the depth of 3 or 4 feet, are evidently composed of this white fog, closely cemented with a black matter, which seems to be the heath completely rotten. One of these peats, thoroughly dried, if cautiously rubbed between ones hands may be again reduced to that white fog, which constitutes its principal part, the black matter, which, like glue, connected the peat together, moulders down in the operation to small dust. The deeper this moss is dug, the more difficult it becomes to separate the component parts of the peat, till at last the

the parish, but some time ago this sum was unhappily lent on personal security. The debtors failed, and neither stock nor interest could be recovered for 15 years past, which has reduced the parish to much difficulty in supporting the poor. In that distressing year for this country, 1783, a contribution was set on foot, and 72 l. was collected, mostly from the principal heritors. This sum was laid out in the purchase of oat meal, which was sold to the poor at the reduced price of 10 d. *per* peck; the remainders of the original stock was laid out in the same manner three or four times, and the meal still sold at the same price till the month of September following, when the capital was then reduced to a few shillings of bad halfpence. For 9 months 105 families received of this meal every 14 days, which rendered their condition, in that straitening time, more comfortable than most of their neighbours. For these 15 years, that neither stock nor interest could be got, the poor have been supported by the collections made in the church on Sundays, mortcloths, and the dues for the proclamation of banns, and by occasional charities from the

Lockhart

the white fog is found equally rotten with the heath, and the peat becomes hard and black, and exceeding good fuel. This affords a demonstrative proof, that all moss, however deep, is composed of the vegetables that once grew on the surface. In the freestone quarry at Wilsontown, there was dug up a few years ago the trunk of a large oak tree, some feet below the surface, completely petrified. The side of the tree that lay upmost had lost the bark and part of the wood by rotting, before this petrification had come on; but the under side had the bark entire, with all that irregular fluting, which is observable on the bark of every full grown oak.

There are several mineral springs in different parts of the parish impregnated with iron and sulphur, but the most remarkable is a spring on Leven Seat, so strongly impregnated with allum, that when tasted, for one can only taste it, it affects the mouth as if it were liquid allum, so that it is with difficulty that the lips can be separated. The water is so amazingly cold, that it is next to impossible to swallow it.

Lockhart family and others of the heritors. The collections in the church amount annually to 25 l.; the mortcloths, &c. to about as much more. The number of families on the session list, is, on an average, 30; these have quarterly allowances made them, besides interim disbursements, as the circumstances of individuals require.

Ecclesiastical State.—Both church and manse are in very bad condition, and both ought to be rebuilt, as they are too bad to admit of repair. The church is an antient fabric. The aisle, which has successively been the burying place of the Somerville family, of the Dalziels Earls of Carnwath, and now of Count Lockhart of Lee, was built in 1424, and is a Gothic structure, covered with free stone flags. There is no record existing to give information when the body of the church was erected; but from the difference of architecture it appears to have been built at different times. It is 100 feet within the walls in length, and 20 in breadth, which renders it very inconvenient as a place of worship. The church of Carnwath was founded in 1424 by Sir Thomas Somerville of Carnwath, for a provost and 6 prebendaries. There was at the same time, and by the same person, provision made for the maintenance of 8 poor old men. Count Lockhart of Lee is patron. The stipend, by a late decree of augmentation, is 29 l. in money, and 4 chalders of meal. The glebe consists of 9 acres and one rood. The manse was built in 1749; but, from its present wretched condition, it appears to have been badly executed at first*.

VOL. X.

U u

Miscellaneous

* No diseases are peculiar to this parish. The general complaint is rheumatism, occasioned by the damp houses, the earthen floors, and perhaps by the close beds, which prevent a free circulation of fresh air, which is doubtless necessary for the preservation of health. Most part of the parishioners, particularly women

Miscellaneous Observations.—The road from Edinburgh to Lanark and Air, and that from Peebles to Glasgow, pass through this village: The former was completely made some years ago; the other is now nearly so. As all the northern parts of the parish, and some of the N. E. abound in coal, that is therefore the common fuel, but the people both in the muirland and lower parts of the parish, in general, burn peat along with the coal, which is far from being a lasting fire, as the peat burns the coal quickly away. The inhabitants of this place have been long accustomed to cast peats, and cannot be brought to give up the custom, although, reckoning the labour, which makes a considerable part of their summer work, they are a more expensive fuel than coal. The price of the coal at Wilfontown (6 English miles from the village of Carnwath,) is $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. *per* cwt. At Clempy coal-hill, (much the same distance) the price is 8 d. *per* 34 stone, which in winter is all that can be carried on a single horse cart.

The price of butcher meat here is much the same as it is in the markets of Edinburgh and Lanark. Oat meal is in general a little cheaper in the Carnwath market than in Lanark, Hamilton, Glasgow. Before the Clyde and Forth canal was made, meal was sold here at 2 s. or 2 s. 6 d. *per* boll, below what it brought at Glasgow; and it was a considerable part of the business of the tenants, whose small farms did not afford them

women who have arrived at the age of 50 years, and many before that period, are much distressed with rheumatism, which often renders the decline of life exceedingly hard and heavy unto them. There is one person now living upwards of 91; and what is remarkable, this man was the father of a child at the age of 80, and his wife at that time was more than 51.

Notwithstanding the evident utility of inoculation, it gains ground but slowly among the country people here; but it is to be hoped that their prejudices against it will gradually wear off, and this salutary method for the preservation of life be universally adopted.

them constant employment, to carry it down to Cambusnethan for the supply of the Glasgow market. There are two weekly markets in this place, in which meal and bear are the principal commodities bought and sold. There are 5 fairs in the year, but only two are considerable; one on the last Thursday of June old style; the others about the middle of August. The price of labour has been greatly increased since the introduction of the iron and cotton manufacture. The wages of a good plowman, who lives in the farmers house, are from 6 l. to 8 l.; the wages of a female servant from 3 l. to 4 l. *per annum*; the wages of a day labourer from 1 s. to 14 d. or 16 d.; the wages of a good shearer engaged for the harvest, for a man from 21 s. to 25 s. for a woman from 18 s. to 20 s. It is a common observation in the place, that although the wages of servants are greatly increased, they in general save less than when their wages were smaller, as they are much more expensive in dress than they formerly were. The servant men all wear English cloth; and the servant maids are much better dressed on Sundays and at fairs and markets than their mistresses were a few years ago. The Scotch dialect is spoken here, not without a considerable mixture of provincial peculiarities *.

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* There are six public houses in the village, in which small-beer, porter, but particularly whisky, are sold; and it is to be regretted, that this last article should be so cheap, as it is evidently tending in this place to debauch the morals of the lower classes. The quantity consumed here is almost incredible; and those who are least able to spare from their families are most addicted to this abominable beverage. Besides these public houses, the same liquors are sold in every shop in the place; of such shops there are five in the village, and others in different parts of the parish. The innocence and simplicity of the commons in this part of the country are consequently on the decline. To attain a little smattering of law is also become an object of attention to a few; and it is to be doubted, not with an intention that they may be enabled to act with more justice and honesty, but the quirks of it are rather studied to give them the advantage of others.

The most essential improvement of this part of the country would be to inclose the grounds with broad belts of planting for shelter. The village of Carnwath (many parts of the parish are higher) is no less than 650 feet above the level of the sea; it may therefore be easily judged that shelter is absolutely necessary. This district ought to be made a grazing rather than a corn country, the spring season being uncommonly wet, so that the lands are seldom in a proper condition when they are sown, and the frosts come on so early, that they often hurt, and sometimes almost destroy the crop. The fatal effects of these frosts are so justly and distinctly described in the Statistical Account of the parish of Linton in Tweeddale, as to render it unnecessary to say more on the subject. From the causes now mentioned, there has scarce been a crop in the muirland part of this parish since 1783, which has repaid the farmer for seed and labour, and in many of these years his returns have by no means done so. Were the fields inclosed in the manner mentioned above, and laid down in good heart into grass, few parts of the country would produce more or better, and were these fields ploughed only after lying 6, 7, or 8 years in pasture, the produce of one acre might well be computed equal to the produce of two in the general mode of farming at present. There is plenty of lime stone in the middle of the parish, and a seam of coal immediately under it, sufficient to burn the stone: It is sold at $5\frac{1}{2}$ d. *per* boll flacked lime. To have this material so near at hand is certainly of advantage for the improvement of the district. It is found that laying lime upon lands which produce four coarse grass, sweetens it much, and increaseth the quantity. As Carnwath is situated at a little distance from an wool country (Tweeddale), fuel cheap, and the houses low rented, it would be a proper place for establishing

tablifhing a woollen manufactory, was any perfon of fpirit and capital to engage in that branch of bufinefs.

Some of the intelligent farmers are now fenfible of their miftake, in allowing their cott-houfes to fall into ruins; for although the rent of thefe houfes was not an object of importance, yet they were the nurfery of the fervants both male and female that were wanted in the country. By allowing thefe houfes to go to ruin, the poor inhabitants are removed to the manufacturing towns, and the farmers find it exceedingly difficult to procure workmen to carry on the neceffary bufinefs of the farms.

N U M.

NUMBER XXVIII.

PARISH OF HARRIS.

(*Presbytery of Uist.—Synod and County of Inverness.*)

By the Reverend Mr JOHN MACLEOD.

Name, Extent, &c.

TILL of late, this parish has been designed Kilbride, from one of the churches or cells in it so called. It is now denominated, in English, Harris, and, in the vernacular dialect, *Na Heradh*, *i. e.* the Herries, plural; a name which seems to be Gaelic, though we cannot pretend to trace its origin with precision. A fanciful etymologist might derive it from *na hardubh*, signifying the heights; this parish being in reality the highest and most mountainous part of the Long Island, in which it is situated; and another circumstance, which seems to give countenance to this derivation, is, that the highest part of the Island of Rum, another of the Hebrides, is also called *Na Heradh*. Along the E. side of the parish runs the Channel, which separates the Long Island from Sky and the Continent. Its W. coast is washed by the Great Atlantic Ocean; and, on the southern extremity, it is bounded by the parish of North Uist, from which it is separated by a narrow Sound, running betwixt the island of Berneray and Uist, called *Caolas Uist*, *i. e.* the Sound of Uist.

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It is difficult to describe the form of this parish under one view, it being composed of seven large inhabited islands, and a multitude of lesser ones uninhabited, most of which are irregularly interspersed through the Sound of Harris, and the rest on each side of Harris, properly so called, a peninsula of Lewis; towards which country it stretches from S. to N. an immense distance, and exhibits to the view a group of lofty rugged mountains, oddly huddled together, ‘*Rudis indigesta-que moles.*’ Neither is it easy to ascertain the precise extent of the whole, nor, indeed, of any particular district of it. We are not acquainted with any accurate mensuration of distances taken here, and the computation of the people by miles is at best uncertain. In this account, however, we must, for want of better, adopt it as our rule, allowing (for so we safely may) every Scotch computed mile to measure $1\frac{1}{2}$ English. At this rate, then, the parish of Harris, from the northern to the southern extremity, along the common track of travelling by land, and the course of navigation through the Sound, will be at least 48 miles long: Its breadth varies much. Near the northern extremity it is 24 miles; from thence to the Sound, it may be at an average from 6 to 7; and, of the Sound, navigators calculate the breadth as well as length at 3 leagues.

Division of Districts.—As the remote and much neglected quarter of the British Isles, in which this parish is situated, is, in general, but very imperfectly known to the public at present; and as it may at some future period assume that importance in the political system, to which its immense extent, its many natural advantages, and the genius of its inhabitants, appear to entitle it, the inquisitive reader will readily pardon in a work of this nature a particularity of description, which, given of places better known, might justly be deemed superfluous and impertinent. In delineating the topography of a
country

country so extensive, so discontinuous, so heterogeneous in form, soil, and surface, as is the parish of Harris, even proximity of description is not easily avoided. To render this account in some degree regular and intelligible, we must divide the parish into three separate districts; and, proceeding in our survey, according to the general plan of this work, from the southern extremity northward, these are as follows: 1st, The Southern Isles lying in the Sound of Harris. 2^d, The main-land of Harris within Tarbert. And, 3^d, The forest or outer hills of Harris, and the Northern Isles.

1. *Description of the South Isles of Harris.*

Of these four are inhabited, viz. Berneray, Pabbay, Calligray, and Ensay. The names of these, and almost of all the islands about Harris, are supposed to be of Danish origin. Their general appearance is either flat or gently sloping from a little elevation in the middle. Berneray, lying about a mile N. of Uist, is a beautiful and fertile island, about 4 miles in length, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile in breadth. Its N. W. side is much damaged by the breaking of sand banks. Pabbay lies about a league N. W. of Berneray, is of a conical appearance, and rises to a peak considerably higher than any part of the other islands in the Sound. Its greatest diameter may measure about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles. This island was once the granary of Harris, but it has lost much of its fertility by the encroachment of the sand drift, which now covers its S. E. side to the very top, exhibiting a most desolate appearance. The S. W. side is verdant, and well cultivated. The N. W. side, exposed to the Atlantic, yields little or no vegetation, the spray of the sea in stormy weather washing over it. Within $1\frac{1}{2}$ league E. from Berneray, lie the islands of Calligray and Ensay, separated from each other by a narrow Sound, called *Caolas Scaire*,

Seaire, through which the tide passes with the most impetuous current known about these coasts. These islands lie in a line from S. to N. along the S. W. end of Harris. The intermediate opening is most commonly called the Sound of Harris, and is most frequented by shipping. Calligray is about 2 miles long, and a mile broad. The S. end is a deep moss, and for the most part uncultivated; the N. end a sandy soil well cultivated. To the northward of this island lies Ensay, in size and shape nearly the same as Calligray, being verdant all over, and having a good soil well cultivated.

Of the uninhabited islands belonging to the southern division, some are of considerable extent: A few of them may measure a mile in length, and about half a mile in breadth. They are covered with heath and moss, and afford pretty good summer pasturage. The shores are lined with sea-weed. The people of the four islands, already described, repair to them with their families and cattle, in the season of kelp-manufacturing. Here most of them get peats for fuel, there being no moss in any of the inhabited islands of this district, excepting Calligray; and, to procure this necessary article, some of them have to go through a most dangerous navigation, the distance of almost three leagues. The names of the largest isles are Hermitray, Hulmitray, Saartay, Voteray, Neartay, Ofsay, Vaakfay, Haay, Suurfay, Torogay, Scarvay, Lingay, Groay, Gilifay, Sagay, Stromay, Skeilay, Copay. There is, besides these, a vast number of islets, holmes, and high rocks, for each of which the people have names. It is remarkable, that as the names of the larger isles terminate in ay, so the names of these last generally terminate in em, *e. g.* 'Tuem, Cuadem, Coddem, &c. From an eminence near the Sound may be had a very curious view of the odd intermixture of land, rock, and water, which fills the space betwixt the mainland of Uist and the mainland of Har-

ris Standing on this eminence, at lowest ebb in spring tides, and in calm weather, one contemplates with amazement the vast variety of islands, rocks, banks, shoals, and streights, before him, compares them to the star in the galaxy, and is almost bewildered in the view. ‘*Credas innare revulsas Cyclodas*’ Here the tide rises to a great height; the current runs with amazing rapidity; the surge, when the wind blows against the tide, swells prodigiously; and the roar of the breakers, foaming over the banks and shoals to an immense distance, seems to threaten the islanders with a general deluge. In winter storms, the view is tremendous and grand beyond the power of description. One would hardly expect to find a safe course of navigation through such a Sound; yet the writer hereof recollects to have counted in one day upwards of sixty sail of herring busses, which found their way through it without an accident, bound northward to the Loch-Rogue fishing. He has even seen some ships of burden, which were driven in by stormy weather from the Western Ocean, piloted in safety, by the people of the islands, through this seemingly impervious course.

2. *Description of the Mainland of Harris within Tarbert.*

This track of country extends from the Sound to Tarbert, a length of 15 miles. At the southern extremity, its breadth is about 6 miles: It narrows gradually, but irregularly, towards the middle of this region; and from thence widens again towards the ridge of mountains that overhangs Tarbert, where, computing from the head lands on the W. coast to those on the E. the breadth may be about 8 miles. The whole of this district is mountainous and rocky, excepting the W. coast, which is mostly bordered with a stripe of plain ground, and covered with verdure almost to the tops of the hills.

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The E. coast is indented all along with harbours, bays, and creeks, and exhibits to a spectator at sea the most barren aspect, appearing to be a continued bare rock. Near the shore, however, a few green patches are to be seen, brought into culture by the laborious industry of the inhabitants, in the manner hereafter to be described. The country is inhabited along the shore on each coast. The intermediate space is a wild uncultivated common. Within this district on the W. coast are two large tracts of sand, covered by the sea at high water only. One of them is circular and upwards of 4 miles in circumference; the other is oblong, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile long, and a mile broad. The inlet to each from the sea is narrow but deep. The process of recovering them would be hazardous and expensive; but were they brought into culture, they would be more valuable than all the arable lands in this district of Harris besides. The names of the principal farms in this division appear to be Norwegian, *e. g.* Scarasta, Borough or Borve, Nisabost, Horgabost, Shelabost.

3. *Description of the Forest of Harris, and the Northern Isles.*

The range of mountainous pasture N. of Tarbert, towards the Country of Lewis, is called the Forest, though without a tree or even a shrub, because it is the resort of the deer, and is alledged to have been a royal forest. It begins at the narrow isthmus, called Tarbert, which connects this division of the mainland of Harris with that already described. This Isthmus, about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile broad, separates the two largest harbours in Harris, which approach it in opposite directions, and are called East and West Loch-Tarbert. Its extent from S. to N. scarcely equals its breadth; and the mountains on each side being high, steep, and barren, it appears a deep, dark, horrid gulph. The Forest, bounded E. and W. by the open sea,

sea, and on the N. by the two great harbours of Loch-Seaforth and Loch-Refort, separated at the Lewis march by an isthmus of about 6 miles, is somewhat of a triangular space, forming a very obtuse angle at Tarbert. The distance from Tarbert, along the W. coast to the mouth of Loch-Refort, is 18 miles. From Tarbert to the mouth of Loch-Seaforth, the distance may be called 7 miles. Proceeding in a straight course from Tarbert to the Lewis march, if we may be allowed to suppose a straight course practicable through the intervening obstacles, the distance may be called 10 miles. This mountainous region resembles a number of sugar loaves placed on their bases in contact with one another and broken at top into the various forms of peaks, protuberances, and excrescences; perhaps the rudest specimen of nature's workmanship. The general appearance is rocky, but there is some coarse pasture in the valleys, and in the interstices of the rocks along the sides of the mountains. Along the western shore there are a number of creeks, and inlets of the sea, most of them commodious harbours, at each of which a colony of tenants has been placed, who contrive, by a wonderful exertion of industry, to rear as much barley, oats, and potatoes, as serves, with the help of their fishing and other earnings, to support their families. Towards the northern extremity of this shore, there is one farm, called Huskinish, which contains some extent of arable land, being a rich mixture of black earth and shell sand. The eastern shore is also inhabited by a set of industrious tenants, who cultivate a soil of the most forbidding aspect, so are some patches along the sides of Loch Refort and Seaforth.

The Northern Isles inhabited are, Taransay, Scalpay, and Scarp. Taransay is a high rocky island, about 4 miles long and 1 broad, lying in a western direction from the mouth of West Loch Tarbert. Scalpay is a low, heath covered, round island

Island in the entrance to East Loch Tarbert. Its land dimensions are not easily ascertained, its parts being scarcely coherent, through a singular intervention of water lakes and arms of the sea jutting in through it in various directions. Its two extreme points from E. to W. may be computed 3 miles distant. On the E. point is a light-house built in 1788; and near the western extremity are two of the best natural harbours in the Hebrides: Mariners call it Isle of Glafs. Scarp is a high round rocky island, one compact mountain, of which the diameter at the base may be 3 miles. It is situated at the mouth of Loch Refort, and divided from Huskinish, already mentioned, by a sound somewhat less than a mile broad at high water.

Of the uninhabited islands, belonging to this division, several small ones are placed round the bays and harbours of Scalpay, and along all the creeks of the E. coast of Harris. There is one in East Loch Tarbert, called Skeotivay, about a mile long. In the W. loch is a long flat one called Ifay; farther W. along the forest shore are two called Soay. Within Scarp, at the mouth of Loch Refort, is a flat one called Fladday. All these names appear to be Danish. Four leagues N. W. from Taransay is a large green island called G'aaskeir, which is a Gaelic name, signifying the rock of geese. It is frequented by vast flocks of wild geese. The gentleman who possesses it in tack, used for many years to send to it, from the island of Taransay, 12 heifers and a bull about the 12th of August; and they were brought back in high order early in June, each cow having a calf. One year the whole flock perished; and, to whatever cause the change may be imputed, it is certain the pasture is now so far degenerated, that it affords but scanty feeding to about 12 sheep of a very small size.

Soil,

Soil, Produce, and System of Farming.—The country of Harris can never be enriched by agriculture. The soils now in culture are, generally speaking, poor; and of the waste lands the far greater part will entirely baffle the art of the husbandman for ever. The rude inhabitants of the rocky and mountainous regions have attempted tillage with amazing success, in places where an experienced farmer of a more favourable clime could never think of turning a sod for the purpose of raising a crop. The quantity of land throughout the whole parish, which can be called properly arable, *i. e.* to be turned with the plough, is very inconsiderable, in proportion not only to the extent of muir and waste lands, but to the quantity otherwise contrived to be tilled. The plough lands are confined to the four Southern Isles (none of which, however, is altogether arable) some fields of sandy soil on the west shore of Harris within Tarbert, some in Huskinish, and a small patch, perhaps 10 acres, in Taransay. These lands are laboured with a common Scotch plough and feathered sock, drawn by four horses; and immediately sown and harrowed, sometime betwixt the 1st of April and 12 of May. Weak stubble ground, manured with sea-weed, which is cast ashore in May, is sometimes ploughed down so late as the 10th or 12th of June, and yields excellent barley. Of all these lands the soil is in general sandy; that especially which lies nearest the shore, from whence the sand is perpetually drifted by high winds, is pure shell, ground very fine, in which the eye can scarcely discern a particle of earth. Towards the latter end of spring it gets a strong surface; and, when ploughed without manure, it yields a thin crop of small black oats, the stalks of which seldom rise above a foot from the ground. Towards the rising grounds the soil improves, being a mixture of black earth and sand, in which the corn rises much higher, and grows close. When manured, both soils, if the
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summer be showery, yield rich crops of barley. The manure chiefly used is sea-weed, of which great quantities are cast ashore by the winter storms in the South Islands, in a few places on the west of Harris within Tarbert, and in Taransay. The quantity of dung made is considerable, owing to the shortness of the stubble, and the cattle consuming the straw in winter provender. There is neither marl nor lime stone in the country, not in the whole long island. Black earth and peat dust are used successfully as manure, on a few spots purely sandy. In the island of Ensay only, there is some extent of wet clayey soil arable, and it is not reckoned among the most productive. The only other kind of soil in the South Isles is a black mould, generally deep, which, when well manured with sea weed and tilled in lazy-beds, is by far the most productive. On this ground, the shell sand, with which the sea coast abounds, would, without doubt, answer as a manure, and its effects would, in all probability, be more permanent than those of sea-weed, which seems to give only a temporary stimulus to vegetation, without enriching the soil; but it has not been yet tried, for want of cart roads to lead it up; and the grounds are so steep, rocky, and uneven, where this soil prevails, that it will be difficult, in the future progress of improvement, to accomplish this desirable object. There is upon two farms, called Rowdile and Strond, at the S. extremity of the mainland of Harris, a red loamy soil, by far the richest in the parish, which has not yet been brought to that degree of cultivation it might admit of. It is tilled in lazy-beds; but if drained and cleared of stone, which is by no means impracticable, the greatest part of it might be turned with the plough. The soil most prevalent in Harris is a kind of black earth, of firm cohesion, with a strong surface, which is thin over the rocks, and on the declivities, but very deep and much of the nature of moss, in
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the low and swampy grounds. The only species of tillage adapted to this soil, where thin and scanty, is that of the lazy-bed; and, where it is swampy, a considerable expence of previous draining and trenching is requisite to bring it into arable land. Something, no doubt, might be done in this branch of agricultural improvement; but few attempts have yet been made, partly through the predilection of the people in favour of the ancient system of management, and partly through want of encouragement from the proprietors. Deep black moss is the only soil to be found along the east coast, and on the forest shores. It is curious to observe how the inhabitants of these creeks labour to cultivate it. The first operation in this tedious process is cutting of the sea-ware for manure, each colony having a portion of shore allotted to it for this purpose, by the proprietor or principal tacksmen of whom it holds. This is done at low water, in spring tides, by the tenants of each creek, in common, and led up in creeks on men's backs above flood mark, in as many heaps as there are tenants on the farm; for which heaps they afterwards cast lots, and each carries his share on his back to his own ground, which also has been previously assigned him by lot. Not only the poorness of the pasture, but the ruggedness of the ground disables him from keeping a horse, to lead the manure to his ground; for he often has it to carry through paths entirely impassible by the country gearrans, though they are perhaps the best climbers of their kind in the world. Having thus carried up his share of the sea-ware, he spreads it very thick on the surface of a narrow rigg, disposed as the nature of the ground (than which nothing can be imagined more irregular) may chance to admit, either in a straight, circular, serpentine, or zig-zag direction, round the intervening rocks, pools, or bogs. Then he begins to labour with his cafdireach, an implement of husbandry like that known
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in some parts of the south of Scotland by the name of the lugged spade. With this he cuts in the furrow all the turf, fit for his purpose, that he can collect. The clods so cut are taken up by the hands of a second person, who lays them closely over the manure on the rigg. If he cannot afford to employ a couple more hands on the opposite side of the rig, he must go round it, thus cutting and laying on the sod till all is covered. As the surface is very strong, and the soil by nature absolutely barren, an immense quantity of sea-weed is necessary to force from it a tolerable crop. It generally takes no less than 200 large creel-fulls, if not mixed with dung or any other compost, to yield a boll of barley, or if sown with potatoes, which is the most ordinary as well as the most beneficial crop raised in these creeks, about 12 or 14 barrels. The lazy-bed, thus roughly covered with such sod or turf as the ground affords, is left in this state till the time of sowing, generally very late in the spring; when, previous to its receiving the seed, another operation of considerable labour is found necessary to pulverise it, that is, breaking down the rough clods with a heavy kind of hoe, which, in the toughest parts of the soil, takes up nearly as much time as the first operation of covering the lazy-bed. Then the seed is sown; if with barley, pretty thin; if with potatoes, the cuttings are planted, with a dibble, not many inches asunder. The finishing operation is the harrowing, which is done with a hand rake, having six timber teeth and a handle about 2 feet long. In the whole of this process, the men are generally assisted by their wives and all their children above 12 years old. The picture above drawn of the arduous labour of lazy-bed culture, holds true in respect to every other place through the parish, where the ground does not admit of being ploughed, with this exception, that the manure is led up, and the har-

rowing performed by means of horses, wherever the nature of the ground permits them to be used.

The farmer, who toils so hard for bread, would surely require ample returns to compensate his labour. There are some instances of a rich increase from this mode of cultivation, but the vast expence of time and labour bestowed on the ungrateful soil in which it is used, cannot by any means be said to be generally repaid. The returns from barley seed are in a good year from 16 to 20 fold. An instance has occurred, under the immediate experience of the writer hereof, in which a piece of old ground, richly manured with seaweed, and tilled in the common lazy-bed way, being sown with somewhat less than 10 pecks of barley-feed, bear measure, produced 24 bolls of grain; and this grain was so round as to yield in meal, for every boll, very near five firlots. But such an instance may not occur in 50 years. The ground was prepared with extraordinary attention, and the season was remarkably favourable. The returns of potatoes are from 8 to 10 fold only. These are the only kinds of crop sown in the lazy-bed, the year in which the manure has been laid on. After this, it yields two successive crops of small black oats, first producing a fourfold increase, but degenerating as the strength of the manure declines. For oats, the lazy-bed is broken down to one side, and delved with an instrument called the caschrom or crooked spade. When the third year's crop is taken, the ground is let out of culture, and yields good natural grass, excellent summer pasture for 3 or 4 years; after which it gradually reverts to its original sterility, till it is brought again into culture as above. The grass is the main object for which the farmer labours. It is not for the best returns yielded by his crops of corn that he is at all the toil and trouble above described, but chiefly to lay in a store of winter provender for his cattle, and to improve their summer pasture,

pasture, by meliorating the natural barrenness of the soil as far as circumstances will permit. Could these ends be otherwise obtained, no corn crops ought to be at all raised here, especially on any of the lands unmanageable by the plough; for though no people labour harder, beginning this dreary process so early as the month of November, and continuing it occasionally, as the weather permits, as the cast of sea ware may chance to come, and as the necessary attention to their cattle and to the other branches of husbandry allows them, till the month of June; yet the whole produce of the three crops, barley, potatoes, and oats, may be fairly estimated at little more than 2000 bolls, Linlithgow measure, even in the best of years; and in bad years the crops fail so miserably as to yield little more than the seed requisite for the next sowing. They are more frequently blasted by the severity of the weather in their progress towards maturity, than shaken fully ripe by autumnal storms; at the same time they are liable to this last hazard also, should they have escaped the first. The autumnal equinox is almost invariably attended with a tempest; but the farmers are generally so provident as to have their corns cut down, even if they should not be thoroughly ripe, before this comes on. In reaping the barley, a large proportion, that especially which grows on the strong lazy-bed grounds, is plucked up by the roots, and tied up in sheaves, of which 12 are generally placed close together in a row to dry on the ground. The stubble is afterwards cut off with a sickle, and the barley built up in stacks. This mode of reaping may be challenged as barbarous. It is, however, vindicated on the plea of necessity. This kind of stubble is the only sort of thatch the people can procure for their houses. The oat straw grows but short, and affords the cattle but a scanty subsistence of provender at the best. There is no fern in the parish; and the heather fit for thatch is at the distance
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of many miles from most of the farm houses; besides, it may admit of a doubt, whether this operation, as is conceived, hurts the ground. May it not rather be reasonably supposed, that the strong rough sod, which covers the lazy-bed, being thus laid bare for the winter season, and left exposed to the fertilizing action of sun, wind, and frost, is the better prepared for the next year's tillage and seed: On every farm there is a kiln for drying the corn. There is no public mill in the parish. The principal tacksmen have a small one of a simple construction, each on his own farm; and the lower orders of tenantry make shift to grind their corn by means of quairns, *i. e.* a couple of light milnstones set in motion with the hand by means of a staff fixed in the upper stone. This expedient is used over a great part of the highlands, in places far removed from corn mills. All the bread, thus arduously procured, is generally consumed before the month of June; and such as cannot then afford to purchase imported meal, subsist chiefly on the milk of their cows and sheep, with what fish they may chance to catch, till their wants are relieved by the first fruits of their potatoe crops early in harvest. The produce of his black cattle is the chief support of the farmer. Excepting kelp, this may be said to be the only saleable commodity by which the rents are paid. Whatever other articles may be produced, are found barely sufficient for the support of his family. The cows are of a lesser size and poorer quality than those of Sky and the Continent; but they are a hardy breed, and might be considerably improved by paying more attention to the rearing of the young stock, and securing the pastures with better inclosures. They are sold in small lots from each farm to drovers, who ferry them to the Isle of Sky in the month of July; and from thence they are driven to market, sometimes to the S. of Scotland, but more frequently to England. Though there may be in all Harris
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about 900 milk cows, supposed a breeding stock, yet the number annually sold to drovers does not exceed 200. Undoubtedly a greater number fit for sale might be reared, were the pastures properly secured, which of all the other objects of farming ought to be most attended to. Of this the people are becoming daily more sensible; but still a number of inveterate prejudices obtain in favour of old usages, which will take some time to be entirely eradicated. Cows, sheep, and horses, are too often allowed to feed promiscuously. The inclosures are too few, and these few are very bad. The commons are by far too extensive; for of the great extent, (in most instances of several hundred acres, which a tacksman nominally possesses, all that he can call his own, is only a stripe along the sea shore, about a mile broad, fenced with a wretched seal dyke, rarely sufficient to secure his growing corn against the depredations of the cows and horses that feed on the commons beyond it, and scarcely in one instance fit to prevent the incroachment of sheep. The mode of tillage requires a vast number of horses, which ranging along with all the cows and sheep on a farm, over all the fenceless pastures, through the winter and spring quarters, down to the month of June, prevent the early vegetation both of corn and grass. Upon the whole there must be a great reformation in the habits of the people, and in their system of management, before the farming business, in either line of corn or cattle, can advance the country to any degree of prosperity.

Cows, Sheep, Horses, &c.—The number of breeding cows, above computed at 900, leads us to rate the whole number of black cattle in the parish at 2460, *i. e.* the breeding stock, and its surviving increase at the end of three years. There is a vast difference in the quality of these cows. Those rear-
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ed on the best pastures may draw 3 l. or 3 l. 3 s. *per* head, ordinary cattle from 2 l. to 2 l. 10 s. whilst others at their prime are scarcely worth 1 l. It is but of late years that the prices have risen even so high. An ordinary cow, sold at Martinmas for slaughter, fetches in the country 2 l. Its beef will not fill a barrel, and its tallow seldom exceeds $\frac{1}{2}$ stone; but the meat is fat and delicious.

The number of sheep, considering that there is none of the farms altogether laid out as a sheep walk, is great. Few of them are domesticated. They range unherded through the mountains and commons, where many of them are allowed to run wild, uncaught for years. Under these circumstances it is not easy to ascertain their number with any degree of precision. Perhaps we may not be much above the mark by calculating it at 11,000. They are of so diminutive a size, that 10 or 11 carcases are required to pack a barrel; and 16 fleeces go to a stone of wool. The wool is generally short, but very fine. The mutton is perhaps the most delicate of its kind in the known world. The price of a sheep and lamb at Whitsunday is 3 s. 4 d.; the price of a full grown wedder or fat sheep at Martinmas is from 3 s. to 3 s. 6 d. The price of wool, (which is but seldom sold,) is 8 s. the stone unwashed, or 10 s. when washed. It is remarkable, that there has been but little variation in these several prices for 50 years back. All the wool is spun and manufactured in the parish. A few fine light stuffs are made, which are worn by the first rank of the inhabitants; the lower ranks get their wool manufactured into coarse, but decent clothing for themselves. Some of the gentlemen are now introducing the Galloway black-faced breed of sheep to their farms, which will no doubt increase the quantity of wool and flesh; but it is much to be doubted, whether the quality of either will be improved by the experiment.

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The number of goats is inconsiderable, about 250. Their price is the same with that of sheep.

Of horses the number cannot be laid down at less than 1000. The common country breed is very small sized; but, when in good case, carry large loads, and are remarkably hardy. Their price has risen very high within these few years. A small gearran, bought about 10 years ago for less than 2 l. cannot now be purchased for 3 l. 3 s.; and the best of them sell from 4 l. to 5 l. The gentlemen have a stock of larger horses on their farms, fit for drawing the plough and cart. Some of them have lately imported a few good beasts fit for the saddle; and one gentleman has got a breed of asses, which he expects may prove useful in the production of mules.

To the account of the grazing stock, we add the number of deer in the forest, and on the great commons of Harris within Tarbert, which we suppose to be at least 800. These belong to the proprietor of Harris, who employs one of the principal tacksmen as his forester to prevent poaching. The deer are very destructive to the corn and grass of the tenants, whose farms lie in the neighbourhood of the forest and commons. Some of the uninhabited islands in the Sound of Harris abound with rabbits, introduced some years ago by the gentleman to whose farm these isles now belong.

Kelp Manufacture.—Kelp is the staple, and, excepting the few cows sold to the drovers, the only valuable article of exportation which the country produces. This manufacture is thought to be brought to its utmost extent of late, in consequence of the high prices some years ago, which encouraged the people to convert all the sea-ware produced by these shores into kelp, regardless of the detriment to their corns and pastures, which have degenerated much through want
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of the manure formerly afforded by the shores. All the seaweed, now used for manure, is such as is cast ashore after the kelp-making season is past. In dry weather, any time from the month of April to the month of September, kelp may be made of every weed which the sea produces. The people of Harris are very expert and industrious at it. The whole quantity now made amounts to 450 tons. The shores are held in tack along with the landed possession. The manufacturers are paid at the rate of so much *per* ton, according to the different situations and disadvantages of the shores. For the easiest shores the least paid is 1 l. 5 s. ; for the more difficult from 1 l. 10 s. to 1 l. 15 s. *per* ton. For manufacturing such ware as is cut at low ebbs on sunk rocks, which must be ferried in boats to drying grounds at a distance, there is in some instances paid from 2 l. 10 s. to 3 l. *per* ton. The introduction of this manufacture, exclusive of its advantages to the tacksmen, has been a great blessing to the poorer tenantry, who, in the summer quarter, have no other object on which their industry can be profitably exerted. Yet its benefit does not extend to them so far as might be wished ; as every kelp dealer is desirous to have his kelp made as early as possible, (that which is made early being always the best,) the tacksmen, for the sake of expediting the manufacture, portions out his shores in small lots to as many manufacturers as he can find ; so that for the most part, the man who gets more than a ton for his lot may reckon himself lucky. In the South Isles, and in a few other situations, where the people have summer grazing for their cattle, a man, assisted by his family, may make 4 or 5 tons in a season. We reckon 350 hands employed in this work, which, in a dry season, they finish in the course of 5 or 6 weeks. The employer supplies them in meal, at as easy a rate as it can be purchased ; and were it not that in a season
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of scarcity, they are obliged to buy of this article a quantity sufficient to serve their families till the harvest, they would be generally enabled by their earnings, at the kelp-manufacturing, to pay their land rents. The kelp is either sold to a merchant in the country, or sent to market at the risk of the original owner. Some years ago, it fetched in the country from 5 l. to 6 l. *per* ton. The price has been much on the decline for three years back, owing, it is said, to the quantity of barilla allowed to be imported from a foreign kingdom, almost free of duty. Should the price continue to fall below the present rate, this manufacture must be entirely given up here, as it will certainly be more profitable for the farmers to use the sea weed as manure for their grounds.

State of Property and Possession, &c.—What the state of these countries was previous to the Danish invasions, it is difficult now to trace for want of authentic historical records. It seems highly probable, that the Hebrides, at some remote period of antiquity, could boast of a degree of civilization, wealth, and population, far superior to their state in modern times *. In this state of prosperity the possession of them became

* Many strong and convincing arguments may be brought in support of this opinion. The introduction of Christianity almost in the apostolic age; the settling of Columba so early as the 6th century in the isle of Ji; this island becoming a famous seminary of learning, and the burying-place of many of our Caledonian kings; its costly edifices, evincing the perfection attained in architecture; the multitude of religious houses established in different parts of the isles; and the vast number of churches, of which the names and vestiges are still extant, situated at short distances from one another, all of them well built for strength and duration, and some ornamented with sculpture, in a stile even superior to the taste of the Gothic ages; the prodigious variety of ruins of castles, fortresses, and villages, which, either raised on rocks and lofty eminences, have proudly defied the rage of the elements, and withstood

came an object of desire to the barbarous freebooters of the north, who, upon the decline of the Roman Empire, had successively ravaged all the kingdoms of Europe. They were of course alternately overrun by tribes of Scandinavians, Danes, and Norwegians from the 10th to the 13th century, till in 1266 they were united under Alexander III. to the Scottish monarchy. Among the first of the Danish invaders came that tribe, or clan, of which one branch has for several centuries held the property of Harris. The chief of this branch, who has been variously designed Macleod of Macleod, Macleod of that ilk, and Macleod of Harris, derives his pedigree from Magnus King of Norway, and latterly from the petty kings of Man. Two brothers Lodius, or Leod, and Turkill, or Torkill, the progenitors of two branches, who, to this day, idly contend for the nominal honour of the chieftainship, seized upon the island of Lewis, or, as it was originally written, and as it should still be written according to the orthography of the Gaelic language, Leodhus, so denominated as the habitation of Leod. During the turbulent period of the Danish invasions, the two families found means to extend their dominions far throughout the W. of Scotland and the Isles. Some of their descendants obtained settlements also in the W. of England, in Wales, and in Ireland, who have taken the names of Lloyd and Floyd. We read of a Mac-Turkill, who in those days was King of Dublin. In latter times the Macleods were possessed of the whole of Lewis, of
Harris,

the ravages of time, or which, built in lower situations, have been surrounded and overflowed by fresh water lakes, or arms of the sea bursting the slender barrier of a sandy or earthen bank, and jutting in through the land; besides the daily discovery of buildings on the western shore of most of these islands, exposed in consequence of the wasting of sand banks perpetually drifted by high winds.

Harris, and the greater part of the Isle of Sky, besides the whole W. coast of Rossshire, and a considerable part of the western coast of Invernessshire on the continent. Macleod of Lewis, chief of the branch descended from Torkill, forfeited his property. Some gentlemen of the family, however, have retained a considerable portion of the ancient inheritance. The principal of these are, Macleod of Raasay in Invernessshire, and the Macleods of Cadboll, and Geanies in Ross*. Macleod of Macleod, or Harris, has preserved, though not the whole of his hereditary possessions †, a very extensive property

* It appears from a note now in my possession, under the signature of 'the Chevalier de Mackleot', dated at Lille November 12. 1787, that a considerable family of this name, whether of the Macleods of Lewis or Harris it is not now material to inquire, has been settled in France since the year 1530. The note gives a genealogical account of the family down from a George Macleod, Esq; who, by letters patent from King Robert II. of Scotland, dated 5th December 1388, obtained a gift of certain lands in the county of Tweeddale, forfeited by Humphrey Elphinston, for his adherence to the interests of Richard, King of England. These lands were bestowed on George Macleod for services rendered in the patriotic cause, and particularly for having distinguished himself at the battle of Otterburn. On this possession the family flourished for near two hundred years. The progenitor of the branch settled in France was David Macleod, who went over about the middle of the 16th century in quality of gendarme of the Scottish guard. Since 1560 they have been settled in the duchy of Lorraine. The present head of the family is Jean Nicolas de Mackleot, Seigneur de Terreigne Pierville, Ville Forest et Soumazeur, before the late revolution gentilhomme ordinaire du Roi.

† Notwithstanding that the immense estates of the Hebridian chiefs, generally acquired by right of conquest, during the Danish invasions and the subsequent feuds of the clans, which the powers of a feeble government were not able to restrain, have, in the lapse of time, been split down into lesser properties, we cannot help thinking that the great extent, as yet remaining in the power of a few families, is extremely prejudicial to the interests of the country at large. It has established over the Highlands

perty in Sky, and the barony of Glenelg. The estate of Harris was sold by Colonel Macleod of Macleod, in 1778, to

lands and Islands a degree of aristocratical influence entirely incompatible with the liberty of British subjects. While the mutual attachment of the chieftains and their clans subsisted, this evil was neither felt nor complained of. The chief reigned in the hearts of his vassals, who bore his exactions, and followed his fortunes with zeal and alacrity. At that time his object was men, now it is money. The inhabitants of these countries had then a degree of security in their possessions, arising from claims either of kindred or services to the chief. Now they consider themselves as mere birds of passage. When a tenant is dispossessed, in consequence of the proprietors demanding more rent than he is able to pay, or, as has often happened, in revenge of a slight offence, to which an unguarded spirit of independence, deserving better treatment, may have led, he has no resource left him but to emigrate out of the kingdom. It happens, in fact, that the æra at which the leases expire on one of these great estates, (if indeed there be leases granted upon it), proves almost invariably an æra of emigration; and, without entering into a disagreeable detail of the various circumstances in the conduct of proprietors, which serve to produce this periodical depopulation, the undeniable existence of the fact is, we apprehend, sufficient to establish a position of serious importance, humbly submitted to the consideration of an impartial public, viz. ‘that the state of these countries can never be effectually improved, nor the most valuable interests of the inhabitants properly secured, while the people are left entirely dependant on the power of a few selfish individuals.’

Among the multitudes who groan under the severe exactions of these arbitrary chieftians, there is one description of people whose destiny is sorely to be lamented by every man whose breast is susceptible of any generous feeling; we mean the higher order of tenants, a set of men who have every claim to the appellation of gentlemen, though now, too generally, secluded by the untoward circumstances of their fate, from that degree of independence in their native land, to which their birth, spirit, and education, so justly entitle them. Most of them are descendants of different branches of the chieftian’s family, originally settled in patrimonial possessions on the estate. Many of these possessions had devolved in regular succession from father to son, through a long course of ages, on the present race of gentlemen, holding

to Alexander Macleod, Esq; a native of this parish, and a relation of the chief; who, having acquired an ample fortune in the East India Company's service, retired, in his latter days, with the generous and patriotic intention of bestowing it on the improvement of his native land. The present proprietor of Harris is his son, Alexander Macleod, Esq; now in India, holding a post of considerable consequence in the civil department of the Company's service, a young gentleman of excellent character, and of whom much is expected in forwarding the beneficent purposes of his worthy father. The tacksmen of Harris hold their lands, as yet, under the leases granted by the late Macleod of Macleod. They have had full security in their possessions, which have been handed down to most of them through a long line of ancestry, and have hitherto lived well. Some of the leases last granted were for 38 years, of which there are 18 yet to run. Those granted for 19 years expired at Whitsunday last, 1792. But the people were continued in their respective possessions on paying a moderate augmentation of rent.

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holding leases of their paternal inheritance from the chief for 19 years, and in some instances for a much longer term. But, whatever the time granted by the leases might have been, there was little hazard of alienating the possession, till the base thirst of money had absorbed every consideration of friendship and attachment in the breast of the proprietor. In consequence of this unbounded avarice, however, those gentlemen in the Highlands and Islands, whose leases have run out within the last 30 years, have, in general, experienced as little lenity from their chiefs as the meanest of their cottagers. On some estates, indeed, a design seems to have been laid for their total extirpation. Many of them were driven to the necessity of seeking refuge in the wilds of America; whilst others, obliged to submit to the terms of their oppressors, are in the broad way of sinking their posterity into a state of poverty, insignificance, and contempt. On a few estates, both the higher and lower orders of tenantry have experienced a milder treatment.

The whole of this estate, like most other estates in the Hebrides, is occupied by three different orders of tenants; 1st, principal tacksmen or gentlemen; 2d, small tenants; 3d, cotters.

The common and ancient computation of lands in these countries is by pennies, of which the subdivisions are halfpennies, farthings, half farthings, clutigs, &c. Of these a gentleman, according to the extent of his tack, possesses a vast many, perhaps 20 pennies, perhaps many more. This reckoning comprehends muir, pasture, and arable lands, for which the tacksmen pays so much yearly rent in the lump, during the currency of his lease. Of this extensive possession he may sublet a third or a fourth. Each sub-tenant in Harris generally holds the division of a farthing, for which he pays, according to the supposed value of the lands, from 20s. to 40s. in money, besides personal services, rated at a day's labour *per* week, to the principal tacksmen. The personal services of so many sub-tenants are reckoned indispensable under the present mode of management, in addition to the prodigious establishment besides, of cotters and household servants, both male and female, which a gentleman supports in order to carry on the common business of the farm throughout the year. The single article of fuel costs a vast expence of labour. A gentleman, according to the number of fires his farm requires him to keep up, cuts of peats from 30 to 50 irons, and the cutting of an iron employs four men; the drying, stacking, and leading of them home requires an expence of hands in proportion. Repairing of the seal dykes and inclosures, a work of perpetual labour, weeding of corn, making of kelp, reaping of the different crops, hay, barley, oats, and potatoes in harvest, and the laborious tillage for raising these crops in winter and spring, besides the thatching and repairing of houses, tending and herding the

the cattle, cows, horses, and sheep, separately, with a great variety of other processes in this complex system, all require such a multitude of servants, that a stranger is naturally struck with astonishment; and wonders how the produce of the most lucrative farm is able to support the expence of so large an establishment of domestics. If means were adopted for simplifying the mode of management, the gentlemen of Harris would gladly release their subtenants from the bondage of personal services, and at the same time find themselves relieved of a heavy incumbrance. They are generally humane and beneficent to those whom providence has thus placed under them. They are accordingly loved and honoured by them. Under opposite circumstances the power given them over the inferior order of tenants might justly be deemed oppressive; and, while this system is permitted to continue, a proprietor would do well to look to the character of the individual to whom he confides, along with a large portion of his estate, a large portion of its human inhabitants, the most valuable stock, in every moral and political view, which can be preserved on any estate whatever.

It will perhaps excite the wonder of posterity to know that the whole landed possession, of the three extensive regions, herein described under the title of Harris, was, down to the year 1792, excepting four small tenant farms holding immediately of the proprietor, in the hands of eight gentlemen farmers, on whom all the other inhabitants depend; and that this distribution is so unequally proportioned, that two great farms comprehend more than one half of the estate.

The principal tacksmen live here, as such generally live through the highlands and islands, like gentlemen. They are for the most part men of liberal education and polite breeding. They keep decent and respectable families. Their farms afford them plenty of the necessaries of life, and many
of

of its comforts; for which, as there is no market in the country, there is generally sufficient consumption found in the family through the largesses of hospitality, munificence, and charity, for which they are justly celebrated.

A small tenant farm is a little commonwealth of villagers, whose houses or huts are huddled close together with too little regard to form, order, or cleanliness, and whose lands are yearly divided by lot for tillage, while their cattle graze on the pastures in common. The small tenants in this country, who hold immediately of the proprietor, have leases like the principal tacksmen, and possess, some a penny, some half a penny, and some a farthing, of lands. The stock or stocking for the pasture of a farthing land is 4 milch cows, 3 or perhaps 4 horses, with as many sheep on the common as the tenant has luck to rear. The crops vary according to the different qualities of the farms, but may be computed in general at 4 or 5 bolls a farthing, for which the tenant generally pays from 30 s. to 40 s. rent. This might be reckoned good pennyworth of lands; but when it is considered that the cattle of these tenants, miserably fed throughout the year, and often dying through mere want in the spring season, are neither marketable nor yield much milk, besides that their crops are commonly insufficient to support their families for half the year, the poverty of this class of people in general is easily accounted for. At the same time most of them live as well as people of their rank and occupation in other countries; and some more happily situated than others live even in a comfortable stile. In regard of living, the tacksmen's tenants are on much the same footing with those who hold the same quantity of land of the proprietor, though in most instances they pay more rent and are removable at pleasure. Their common food is potatoes, fish, barley or oat bread, milk, eggs, kail, fowls, and sometimes a little mutton or beef

beef salted for winter and spring provision. The industrious tenant, even of a farthing land, if not unfortunate, can have of all these a competency suited to his rank, from the various produce of his little farm, from the first of harvest to the last of the spring season, and may pay his rents by his earnings at summer labour, either in manufacturing kelp or engaging in such other employ as he can procure. He may either purchase from a merchant, or rear on his own ground, some coarse flax, which is manufactured into shirts and other linens for the use of the family, by his wife and daughters, as their winter evenings amusement. In the same manner is he clothed warmly and decently from the fleece of his little flock.

The third class of the people, whom we have denominated cotters, are tacksmen's servants, constantly employed in the labours of the farm. They have generally grafs, on the same pasture with their master's cattle, for one milch cow with its followers, *i. e.* a three year, a two year, and one year old, a working horse and breeding mare, besides sheep, in the number of which they are seldom restricted, and a farthings division of land for corn and potatoes with its proportion of sea-ware for manure. They have also a kail-yard, fuel, and a weekly allowance of a peck of meal. They are allowed a day in the week to work for themselves, which, with the help of their families, is sufficient for raising and repairing their crops. A grieve, or overseer, and grafs-keeper, if married men, and holding lands in lieu of wages, have more in proportion to the weight of the several charges committed to them. Having no rents to pay, and being seldom under the necessity of buying meal, unless the harvest prove very bad, they live on the whole better than the tenant of a farthing land.

Servants, Tradesmen, Wages, &c.—There are a set of country regulations framed in the baron-bailie court, (the only court of justice in the parish) by which the wages of a single male servant, (here called *scalag*) employed in the business of the farm, were, some time ago, fixed at 2 l. a year, with four pair of shoes; and of women servants employed in the same work, at 6 merks Scotch, with two pair shoes, and other small perquisites or gratuities, as they may merit at the hands of the employer. Grievs, herds-men, grass-keepers, dairy-women, and chambermaids, may have double or triple these wages, according to the extent of their respective charges. However, these regulations have gradually fallen into disuse, and the wages of servants of every denomination have been on the rise for some years past. Some of the gentlemen's grievvies have from 5 l. to 6 l. and upwards, with perquisites; and the single *scalags* will not engage themselves in service farther than for three quarters of the year, desirous to be free in the summer quarter to undertake kelp manufacture, or any job which chance may put in their way, so that their annual earnings, besides feeding themselves, may be rated at something more than 3 l. at an average. In summer the gentlemen employ some hands as day-labourers, when any piece of work is to be carried on separate from the ordinary work of the farm, such as building houses or making dykes. In such case, a common barrowman, or common dyker, has, without victuals, from 8 d. to 9 d. *per* day, and a more able hand 10 d. There is only one bred mason in the country, (and he not a native) who has 1 s. 6 d. in the long day, and 1 s. when he works in winter. All other tradesmen, such as brogue-makers, taylors, carpenters, are fed by the employer in his house; notwithstanding which, their charges are as high as they ought reasonably to be, even though they fed themselves. Weavers are paid in meal for
their

their work. The parish blacksmith has a salary rated at 2 pecks meal, or 1 s. in money from every farthing land, and is besides fed when employed. There are four other blacksmiths in the country, who contrive to make out a poor livelihood by chance employ. There is one bred shoemaker who serves the gentlemen's families. The country leather is poorly tanned with the juice of the tormentile root, and made into brogues for the servants and low tenantry. There are now 6 sloops (some time ago there were 9) employed in the kelp trade, fishing, and other merchandise; for these hands are occasionally procured in the country. As their insular situation renders the sea in a manner their element, all the inhabitants on the sea-coast are, in some degree, mariners. There is one cooper in constant employ with an apprentice. Of those who are occasionally employed as house or boat carpenters, the number exceeds 20, but most of them are also farmers. Of spinsters and weavers, the number is almost equal to that of householders, among the lower class of people, whose wives and daughters both spin and weave their wool into coarse cloths for the use of the family, and a few blankets for sale. There are besides 8 bred weavers who depend on employ from the gentlemen's families. All the gentlemen have gardens, producing cabbages, fallads, parsnips, carrots, &c. Turnips and onions rarely thrive, owing to a worm, generated in the hot sandy soil, which corrodes them in their progress towards maturity. These gardens are managed under the inspection of the owner, by some of the farm servants. They begin to raise a few small fruits.

Rent.—The rent paid to the proprietor, before the expiry of the last lease, was 768 l. 2 s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. By the late agreement with the tenants, the neat amount of it will be 888 l.

Natural

Natural History.—The natural history of this country is, doubtless, well worth the investigating through the several genera and species belonging to the animal and mineral kingdoms found in it. The prodigious variety of fowl and fish with which its coasts abound, is particularly worthy of notice. But the writer of this account is not able to arrange them classically, nor does he pretend to know even the common names of many of them.

Of fowl, besides the domestic species of hens, geese, ducks, pigeons, and a few peacocks lately introduced, the most remarkable are, muir-fowls, tarmagans, woodcocks, snipes, plovers, eagles, hawks, crows, teals, curleus, may-birds, barnacles, wild-geese, solan-geese, cormorants, scarts; and of other sea fowl an indefinite number. Of fish, the vast number of water lakes in this country abound with excellent black trout. Some good salmon likewise comes into the foot of the rivulets from sea, in and before the spawning season. Whales, and *cearban*, or sail-fish, hover along the coast in the summer months; seals in vast abundance are to be seen throughout the year. The sea fish most beneficial to the people are, the white-herring, dog-fish, blind-fish, cod, ling, skait, mackerel, codlin, lythe, sythe, cuddy, sand-eel. There are some oysters and other shell-fish. There are a number of chalybeate springs; some copper and iron ore. The stone every where throughout the country is excellent for building. It is of various kinds; the most common is a hard blue whin of a beautiful gloss. In many places there is the best of granite, admitting of a polish as fine as any marble. There is neither marble, nor limestone, nor freestone, as yet discovered. There can scarcely be a doubt, that many fossil treasures are hid in the bowels of the lofty mountains, to be explored in future times. All that is remarkable, with respect to the vegetable kingdom of nature is, that no tree
grows

grows here, though nothing is more certain than that the country was once wooded all over. The gentlemen plant some bushes and shrubs in their gardens, which fade as soon as they overtop the walls.

A singular deviation from the common course of the tides prevails in the Sound of Harris. The people say (and will not be contradicted in their assertion) that, from the autumnal to the vernal equinox, the current, in neap tides, passes all day from E. to W. and all night in the contrary direction. That immediately after the vernal equinox it changes this course, going all day from W. to E. and the contrary at night. In spring tides the current corresponds more nearly to the common course of ebbing and flowing. The writer has sufficient experience to testify the unaccountable irregularity of the tides in this sound, but he has not been able to ascertain, whether the fact with regard to the neap currents be precisely such as is stated, with so much confidence, by the people. The most destructive process of Nature is, the continual wasting of the land on the western shore, by the perpetual drifting of the sand, and the gradual incroachment of the sea. This is evinced by the clearest testimonies. Lands, which were ploughed within the remembrance of people yet living, are now no more. Wherever a high sand bank has been entirely worn away, the soil under it is found to have been either a rich loam or black moss. In many such situations, vestiges of houses, inclosures, churches, and burying grounds, appear. In the island of Pabbay, where the sea ebbs out in spring tides to a great distance, there are visible, at the very lowest ebb, large trunks of trees; the roots of which, spread out widely and variously, are fixed in black moss, which might be dug for peat to a great depth. Nor is this peculiar to Harris. The same, and other phenomena of the like kind, are observable along the whole
sandy

sandy shore of the Long Island, affording the strongest proofs, that a wide extent of its western coast, once the habitation of men, has, either through some violent concussion, or a gradual process of nature, become the bed of a part of the Atlantic Ocean.

Antiquities.—There are several monuments of Druidism, corresponding to the descriptions or the places of worship under this old establishment given by antiquarians. On the mainland of Harris, in the district within Farbert, there are two of the same description within three miles of each other, one at Nisaboit, and the other at Borge. What now remains of each of these monuments consists of a long flat stone, raised on end perpendicular to the plane of the horizon, about eight feet above the surface of the earth, and surrounded by a circle, of smaller stones, placed on edge, of about 10 feet diameter. The great stone is not quite in the center of the circle. Within a few yards of the one at Borge, there are clear vestiges of a circular building, which has either been a temple adjoining this *clackan*, or the residence of the officiating Druids. One of these monuments, in the Island of Berneray, is remarkable for its name, and varies a little from the above description. The principal stone is something of a conical figure, placed on the small end and flat above. Its height above the surface is not five feet. The circle which surrounds it, less in diameter than those already mentioned, is made up of long sharp pointed stones, laid not very close together, but so as that a man may pass betwixt every two. It is to this day called *clach na greiné*, the stone of the sun. It is well known that under Druidism, which was a corruption of the ancient religion of the Magi, the deity was worshipped as the essence of fire, and was designed by the poets *Grinaeus Appolle*.

In

In the north end of the Island of Calligray, there are faint traces of a very ancient building, called *Teampull na b' Annait*, i. e. the temple of Annat, a goddess mentioned by mythologists, as having for her particular province the care of young maidens. Near this temple is a well of water, at which the worshippers purified themselves, called *tobar na b' Annait*, and the point of land on which it is situated is called *Ré na b' Annait*.

Among the monuments of antiquity, we rank the Danish forts, with which the whole coast of the Hebrides and western continent is lined, and of which there is here a considerable number. They scarcely deserve a particular enumeration, and their general description is well known. They are situated on high eminences, and built in a circular form, of large square stones strongly knit together without any cement. Two of them are always placed in sight of each other. They were used as signal towers as well as fortresses. The alarm of the first appearance of the invading foe, being almost instantaneously communicated to the whole country by means of a fire lighted in the tower from whence the danger was first observed, and immediately repeated by the next in view, till the communication ran almost as quick as lightning, through the whole chain. For this purpose a centinel, called *Gokman*, was continually kept on the highest part of the wall, whose business it was, on espying a fleet at sea, to light the fire, and the *gokman* on duty in the fort immediately communicating with this, instantly repeated the signal. One of the largest and most conspicuous of these forts is situated in Boive o Borough, on the mainland of Harris, which, from this circumstance as well as the name, appears to have been, for some time, the residence of a body of Danish marauders headed by a chief. It is remarkable that in the Long Island there are several places of this name, and

and that in each of these there are Danish forts of a more than ordinary size.

Besides the above mentioned monuments of Pagan and barbarous times, there are monuments of antiquity which deserve to be noticed with peculiar veneration; decayed monuments of the piety of our Christian ancestors, which ought to cause us blush for our country in our degenerate days. In travelling through the Hebrides, and contemplating the remains of edifices consecrated to religious purposes, which occur to the view at almost every mile's progress, the pious mind is affected with a mixture of awe and sorrow, while it can hardly admit, that the overturning of the ancient church establishment ought to be considered as reformation here. In Harris, where, till within a few years back, there has not been, since the æra of our reformation from popery, so much as one comfortable or even decent house for public worship, there were of old no less than 12 churches and chapels, of which the greater part of the walls, though some of them be in a tottering condition, are yet standing, besides several others, probably of a more ancient date, which, having mouldered away into heaps of rubbish overgrown with moss, may still be traced, whilst tradition points out their situations, and has carefully preserved their names. They were either dedicated to saints or designed after the names of their several patrons or founders. Of two, in the Island of Taransay, one was called *Teampull Ché*, and the other *Eaglais Tarain*. Tradition is totally silent in regard to both. Even of the names, as transmitted to us, the best we can make is conjecture. The name of the last strikes us as bearing a similitude to that of the island, which is, perhaps, derived from the same original. There is a St Tarnanus mentioned in the ancient Martyrology, who is called by Fordun, in the Scotichronicon, Tarananus. Archbishop Usher says he was bishop of Lis-

more

more in Ireland, and in the early ages of Christianity planted many churches among the Scottish and Pictish nations. Who knows but the church and Island of Taransay may have taken their names from him?

There is a ruin in the Island of Berneray, called, in the vitiated pronunciation of the people, *Cill Aisain*, which, without doubt, signifies a cell or church dedicated to St Asaph. The churches of more modern date are called after saints, whose names are well known in the Roman calendar, viz. St Bryde, St Rufus, St Luke, St Mary. All these, together with the smaller chapels belonging to them, depended immediately on the priory church at Rowdill, dedicated to St Clement.

The first foundation of this monastery appears to be of a very ancient date. It is mentioned as one of the donations of King David I. the great benefactor of the Scottish church, to the canons regular of St Augustine, and seems from this period to have depended on the Abbey of Holyroodhouse, which was built and endowed by the same King David, A. D. 1123, in memory, as was pretended, of his escape, from an enraged hart, by the miraculous interposition of a cross from Heaven. But many circumstances lead us to place the antiquity of the religious house at Rowdill much higher, though we cannot trace it up to the exact period of its foundation. It is evident that it could not have been founded by David at a time when the Kings of Scotland had no dominion in the Western Isles. It must have been established in the flourishing times of Icolmkill, to which all the lands of Harris are said once to have belonged; and the Clement, after whom the church is called, was most probably some eminent person of that ancient seminary sent here as the first Christian missionary or resident pastor, sainted only by the courtesy of after ages, in consequence of the veneration in which his

name was held by the people. There are two of this name mentioned in our ecclesiastical history. Both of them flourished in the eight century; and, from the circumstances recorded of them, it is manifest, that neither of them could have been canonized by the church of Rome. One of them, for struggling against the encroachments of Papal tyranny, was persecuted, A. D. 747, by Boniface Archbishop of Mentz, and afterwards condemned both at Mentz and at Rome; and the other was graciously entertained by the Emperor Charlemagne, A. D. 784, while employed in writing the Caroline books against the second council of Nice. This last Clement is said to have taught the first grammar school in Paris. It is most likely that the first mentioned Clement, who, after his condemnation at Rome, still adhering to his principles, would naturally retire to his own country, where Popish doctrines were as yet unknown, was the person who laid the foundation of the religious seminary at Rowdill, assisted by other Monks from Icolmkill. The institution may be supposed to have flourished thenceforward in peace and prosperity, till the period of the Danish invasions, when the Monks deprived of their lands, and pent up within the walls of their convent in great distress, the ravaged country affording them no means of subsistence, would very naturally look up to so pious a Monarch as David for aid and protection, under the calamitous circumstances to which they were now reduced; and David, having perhaps relieved their necessities from the revenues of the newly instituted Abbey of Holyroodhouse, laid the foundation of the claim of right, which the canons regular of St Augustine, in possession of that Abbey, afterwards substantiated, when the Western Isles became incorporated with the Scottish kingdom. Thus we account for King David's pretended donation. Buchanan says, the monastery of Rowdill was built by Alexander Macleod of Harris;

Harris; but this is an egregious mistake. The church of the monastery was only repaired by this Alexander Macleod, who died, as the inscription on his tomb bears, A. D. 1527. There is not a stone left in the foundation of the priory. The place of it cannot now be traced, and all we surely know of it is, that it once has been. The chartulary seems to have been lost amidst the devastations, which every where marked the progress of our first reformers; and the church was set on fire. The walls, however, of this venerable pile remained almost entire; and were repaired in 1784 by the late patriotic Alexander Macleod, Esq; of Harris. After the church was roofed and slated, and the materials for furnishing it within laid up in it, to a considerable value, it unfortunately took fire, at night, through the carelessness of the carpenters, who had left a live coal in it among the timbers. So zealous, however, was this friend of religion and mankind in prosecuting his design of repairing it, that by his orders, and at his expence, it was, soon after this accident, roofed; and it is now, though left unfinished since the time of his death, used as one of the principal places in the parish, for celebrating divine service.

Ecclesiastical State and Schools.—In this enormous parish there are seven slated places of public worship; the two nearest each other being 9 miles distant, and the two farthest removed 36. There is a missionary, supported by the committee of the General Assembly for managing the royal bounty, settled in the northern district, who has to officiate in three of these places. The fixed pastor has the other four to attend. There are two churches of stone and lime with slated roofs; the one repaired, and the other built, by the late Alexander Macleod, Esq; of Harris. The stipend is 1000 merks Scotch. The teinds were valued in 1754. The glebe

glebe is let at 5 l. a year. The present incumbent, Mr John Macleod, admitted 9th April 1779, accominodates himself with a comfortable farm house in lieu of a manse. Mr Macleod of Harris is patron and sole heritor.

There is a parochial school at Rowdill, now attended by 30 poor children, the whole emoluments of which to the schoolmaster may be about 20 l. *per annum*. There is a new school soon to be set up in another district, on the establishment of the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge. The same benevolent and patriotic society have already erected at Rowdill a feminary of female industry. Unfortunately the people of this country are so detached from each other, that there is really no fixing on a station in which any one public institution can be of universal benefit. This circumstance in their local situation, is one great cause of the low state both of knowledge and industry in which we find them. Hence it is, that even in religious knowledge, the most important of all, many of them must remain deplorably deficient, while left dependent on the ministrations of one pastor, be he ever so zealous and diligent, even though commonly assisted by the labours of a missionary. It often happens that some of the poor people in the outskirts of the parish, have no opportunity of hearing sermon throughout the whole year, except when influenced to come to the place where the sacrament of our Lord's Supper is usually administered. By an old standing regulation, the people of the two southernmost isles have a right to the attendance of the minister for public worship, only once a quarter; and the access to these islands, from the mainland of Harris, where he resides, is so difficult and precarious, that, in the winter season especially, they are frequently disappointed. An instance, well authenticated, has occurred, in which one of the predecessors of the present incumbent, having gone to preach in the
Island

Island of Pabbay, was storm-staid there for seven weeks, to the great detriment of the rest of his parochial charge. As these islands lie much nearer to, and are of easier access from the mainland of North Uist, and as that parish likewise, under one pastor, is extremely populous and extensive, it occurred to the visitors, sent many years ago, by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, to inspect the state of religion in the Highlands and Islands, that the north end of North Uist, with the Harris Isles of Berneray and Pabbay, was a necessary station for one of the new parochial erections then intended. The scheme of erections failed through want of means to prosecute the design; but it has ever since been an object with the presbytery of Uist to get a missionary to that station. The funds of the royal bounty being already appropriated, there is no hope from that quarter. The late accession to the funds of the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, fully enables them to accomplish this desirable object; and their secretary, having, in the course of his late tour, seen and approved of the station, there was every reason to hope for a speedy relief to the spiritual exigence of the people. But by the regulations of the Society, no station is to be furnished with a teacher, unless the heritors, or other persons having a permanent interest in the bounds, co-operate by affording certain reasonable accommodations for the institution. All that is required in this case is a church, and, for the missionary, a house with a croft of arable and pasture land sufficient for the maintenance of a horse and two cows. Repeated application has been made to Lord Macdonald, the principal heritor, hitherto without effect. But it is to be hoped, that his Lordship and Mr Macleod of Harris will, as soon as their several avocations permit, cordially unite in promoting an institution of such obvious importance to the temporal and eternal interests of their tenants.

Remarkable

Remarkable Characters.—The list of eminent names cannot be supposed to be long in this rude and sequestered clime. Many of the lairds of Macleod have been celebrated for heroic deeds and magnanimous conduct. Among those of latter date, we rank *Ricari mor*, Roderick the Great. He wrote Gaelic and Latin; but understood not a word of English. His subscription was '*Smise Macleoid*, I am Macleod. Two of his sons, Sir Roderick Macleod of Talisker, and Sir Norman Macleod of Berneray, were knighted in the field at Worcester by King Charles the II. Sir Norman afterwards commanded a regiment in the Royal service, and was employed on an important embassy at the court of Denmark: After which he retired from public affairs, and lived in the island of Berneray. His magnificence and virtues afforded a theme of eulogy to the Hebridian muse.

There is an imperfect tradition of a *person mor* (great person) who is said to have been a great scholar and a great traveller. It is pretended he brought from Turkey, the *brattach sbithe*, (consecrated banner) the remains of which are still preserved, as a monument of ancient credulity, in the castle of Dunvegan, now the seat of the lairds of Macleod. This *brattach sbithe* was supposed to be endowed with the virtue of confounding the enemy and securing victory, when displayed in the most perilous exigency of war. It is said to have been twice displayed with success, in the feuds of the clans. It has only one turn more to serve, and then it loses all its virtues. This romantic tradition makes it probable, that the *person mor* was engaged in one of the croisades, perhaps at the taking of Constantinople.

Elizabeth Campbell, a poor woman, who died not many years ago, was remarkable for a religious turn, and various acts of mortification. She went about from house to house begging victuals and wool. The wool she spun on her distaff,
and

and got manufactured into coarse cloths, by the sale of which she gradually hoarded a sum of 50 l. Sterling, which, at her death, she bequeathed to the poor of the parish, under the administration of the kirk-session.

Poor.—Here the poor have many advantages, and, though numerous, are upon the whole well provided for. In the season of plenty they are liberally supplied by the people, who are very charitable, and indeed too frequently allow themselves to be imposed upon by vagrant sturdy beggars from other countries. To prevent these impositions, badges were lately distributed among those of the parish poor, who are allowed to go about begging alms, but they regard them as an ignominious distinction, and the people too generally consider them as an useless innovation. The number now on the roll is 75. They are arranged into four classes; and in the distribution of the funds under the management of the kirk-session, are served according to their respective necessities, into which a previous scrutiny has been made. It is only in the summer season, when provisions are scarce, that they are supplied out of the ordinary funds. Then there is a store of meal laid in for them, and each pauper gets so many pecks in proportion to the whole store, according to the class on which he has been entered. This, with the help of what fish and shell fish he can gather, besides some sheep milk, (for few even of the poor want sheep on the commons) relieves his necessities till the new crops come in. In summer 1791, 30 bolls of meal, bought at 18 s. *per* boll, were distributed among them. The funds are the annual rent of 50 l. already mentioned, as left by Elizabeth Campbell, and of 50 l. more laid up from the savings of good years; the fines arising from delinquencies; the Sabbath collections at church; and the oblations at the communion,

communion, which last generally make up from 8 l. to 9 l. yearly.

Population.—There were formerly no registers kept here. The present incumbent, soon after his admission, made out a roll of catechisable persons, reckoning every soul above seven years old examinable. The number then was 1805. Since this period the population has been fast increasing; and the following circumstances regarding its present state, carefully investigated, A. D. 1792, for the purposes of this statistical survey, may be depended upon as authentic.

No. of souls *	-	2536	Deaths within the year	51
Of males	-	1136	Heads of families	- 447
Of females	-	1400	Born out of the parish	- 53
Above 80	-	45	Able to read and write	108
Above 50	-	228	No. in Berneray and Pab-	
From 50 to 14	-	1481	bay, where public wor-	
From 14 to 7	-	368	ship is celebrated only	
Under 7	-	414	once a quarter	- 494
Born within the year	-	51	Number of souls in	
Marriages within the			1755	- - 1969
year	-	12		

The great increase of population, since 1779, is owing to a variety of causes. There has been no emigration, neither has there been any drain of young men for the use of the army or navy since that period. They have generally married very early in life. The advanced price of kelp gave some spur to industry in that line of manufacture. The late worthy

* All these are members of the established church, excepting one poor woman, a native of Barra, who was brought up and continues a Roman Catholic.

thy proprietor, having for the few last years of his life, resided in the country, carrying on improvements, and intending to direct the industry of the people in a new line, kept a little stir of business agoing for a short time, which induced a few strangers to settle in the parish; but the suspension of these operations, in consequence of his lamented death in 1790, has again affected the population so far, that much cannot now be attributed to this circumstance. The chief cause is, that the principal tacksmen have almost doubled the number of their subtenants in the creeks on the eastern shore, where the poor people are desirous to settle for the convenience and advantage of fishing fythe and cuddy. Having no access to salt under the present state of the salt laws, these are almost the only kinds of fish among the numerous species on the coast, which they are encouraged to look after; and of these, fortunately for them under such a severe operation of law, they can procure, with little labour, a fresh supply to their families, generally every morning and evening.

The number of births and marriages in 1792, is considerably below the average of former years; but the number of deaths is extraordinary. There was a bad kind of the small-pox, which carried off a number of the children, almost all inoculated by their parents, without medical assistance, a plan which was found to have answered, at former periods, without any fatal consequence: Besides this, the people were visited by a pestilential fever, with which every soul in a family once infected was laid up; and it generally proved fatal to old people.

The climate as well as the occupation of the inhabitants seems favourable to health. In the summer months, when the weather is fair, the air is most salubrious; but it is liable to sudden changes, which may account for the diseases most prevalent here, viz. coughs and rheumatisms. This country

was once remarkable for instances of longevity. Martin, in his account of the Western Isles, says, he knew several in Harris of 90 years of age, as was attested by the minister and elders. The lady Macleod, he adds, who past the most of her time here, lived to 103, had then a comely head of hair and good teeth, and enjoyed a perfect understanding till the week she died. Her son Sir Norman Macleod died at 96; and his grandson Donald Macleod, Esq; late of Berneray, died at 91. Four persons, calling themselves upwards of 90, died during the incumbency of the present minister. An old gentlewoman born and brought up in this parish, said by her relations to be 102, now lives in the Isle of Sky. As no registers of births and deaths have been kept, it is impossible to be precise in regard either to ages or numbers; but, as far as recollection serves, one circumstance, evincing the healthfulness of the climate, is very remarkable, viz. that from the year 1779 to 1785, the average number of deaths, of adult persons, can scarcely be rated at three each year.

Language.—Gaelic is universally spoken here; and excepting the number already specified, who have been taught to read and write English, few can speak any other language. It is almost obvious to common reflection, that the inhabitants of these islands; formerly cut off, both by their local and political situation, from all connection with the Scottish, Pictish, and Saxon nations, and having as yet but little intercourse with strangers, must have retained this dialect of the ancient Celtic in its greatest purity. It has not been adulterated in the least degree by the Danish conquerors; excepting the names of places, we scarcely find a word resembling any of the Norwegian dialects in the Gaelic of the Hebrides. All of those barbarous invaders who settled in the country, soon adopted the language and manners of the conquered; one
proof

proof, by the way, among others, that both were at that time more civilized and polished than their own.

Character of the People.—The rude state of the poor people, in regard to civil and religious improvement, already represented with fidelity, scarcely requires a comment. It too clearly indicates neglect on the part of those whose interest and whose duty it was to have enlightened them. Their vices are such as must be supposed, among a people professing Christianity, to proceed from difficulty of access to gospel ordinances, and from a total want of police. We would therefore spread a veil over them. They are more than counterbalanced by their virtues, almost the pure fruits of nature. They are sober, docile, sagacious, and capable of industry, were a channel opened to them in which industry might be profitably exerted. They are kind and courteous to strangers, hospitable and charitable even to excess. They have the strongest attachment to their native country, and entertain the most ardent gratitude to benefactors.

An object of the most noble and laudable ambition is presented to a liberal and public spirited proprietor of Harris, in the emancipation of so many of the human race, possessed of so many good natural qualities, from a state of servitude, ignorance, and sloth*.

Advantages

* The following note, taken from a book entitled, 'the Present State of Great Britain and Ireland,' 5th edition, printed London 1723, corresponds to the traditions and other documents yet extant in the country. 'A fishery was attempted in the Isles by King Charles I. in conjunction with some merchants; and a magazine was erected for that use in Hermistray, one of the Harris islands, and another in the isle of Vaaklay; but unhappily the civil war coming on, it was not prosecuted. It was renewed by King Charles II. and succeeded

Advantages and Disadvantages — The natural advantages of this country are succinctly enumerated by the author of the book above quoted, p. 9. of the State of Scotland, where speaking of the instances of longevity mentioned by Martin, which he ascribes to the healthfulness of the climate and the temperate way of living, he adds, that, ‘ this is very good
‘ encouragement for others to adventure stocks and factories
‘ for

‘ ed well for a time. The fish they caught were accounted the
‘ best of their kind in Europe, and yielded a price accordingly ;
‘ but the king withdrawing his money afterwards, to supply
‘ his pressing occasions, the merchants were displeased at it, and,
‘ differing among themselves, did also withdraw theirs, which
‘ ruined the design.’

Since that period no particular attention has been paid by administration to a country, in which this single experiment might have taught them to look for neglected sources of public wealth ; and the only object of the landlords was to raise their rents without attempting any improvement whatever ; till the year 1783, when the late Captain Macleod, of patriotic memory, having become proprietor of Harris, took up his residence in the country, and commenced a scheme of improvements, which, if he had lived to accomplish, was likely to advance the general prosperity of the inhabitants. His object was to call the attention of the people chiefly to the fishing. He deepened, at a considerable expence, the entrance to an excellent little basin at Rowdill, fit to accommodate all the boats belonging to the country, as well as several vessels of ordinary burden. Within this he built two quays and a breast-work. He employed the people, and paid them well for their labour. He caused the tenants to begin to make cart roads for opening a communication through the country. In order to give the proper direction to female industry, he built a house for a manufactory, endows it with a salary for a mistress, and got to it a number of spinning wheels. He entered into terms with the British Society for erecting a fishing station at Tarbert, where ground to a considerable extent was accordingly measured out for this purpose. In a word, he was zealous in promoting the public good, but his time was too short to consummate any one of the beneficent projects he had laid. All the labours which he commenced, have ceased, and all the monuments of his patriotism, which he left half finished, are now verging to decay.

‘ for improvement of trade here, especially considering the
 ‘ simplicity of the people’s manners, and their innate respect,
 ‘ and kindness to strangers. In a word,’ continues our au-
 thor, ‘ the number, safety, and commodiousness, of the bays
 ‘ and harbours in these islands, and the multitude of fish in
 ‘ all of them, look as if nature had designed them for pro-
 ‘ moting a fishing trade; and were the people better instruc-
 ‘ ted in fishing, &c. these islands are capable of maintaining
 ‘ ten times the present number of inhabitants.’ All that
 this author very justly observes, of the Hebrides in general,
 is peculiarly applicable to Harris. Its natural disadvantages
 arise from the barrenness of the soil, and other circumstances
 already specified in the local situation of the inhabitants. In
 their political circumstances, there are various abuses which
 must be rectified, before a spirit of useful industry can be ex-
 cited, and general happiness promoted among them. The
 salutary operation of the British laws is little felt here; and
 the precious liberty of British subjects is little known, except
 to a few individuals. The poverty, the ignorance, the per-
 verse habits of the lower class of people, and even the local
 prejudices of those better informed, will prove an obstacle of
 serious moment to the introduction of a system of improve-
 ment, which, prosecuted with energy and effect, might, in
 process of time, advance this poor despised country to a high
 state of prosperity and political consequence.

Means by which the situation of the people might be meliorated.

—The inhabitants of Harris can never rise to a comfortable
 degree of prosperity, till they learn to avail themselves of the
 natural advantages of their local situation. It is evident from
 the foregoing account, that in cultivating the barren land,
 they strive against nature to force a miserable pittance from
 the earth, while in another element she presents her trea-
 sures

tures to enrich them. Were a judicious selection made, of proper stations on the sea-coast, for prosecuting the fisheries, and manufactures established for constant employ to the fishermen's families, and in the intervals of the fishing to themselves, a foundation would be laid for a progressive system of industry, which, under the vigorous direction of an enlightened proprietor, and cherished by the fostering hand of a beneficent government, might, in a few generations, prove no inconsiderable accession to the commercial interest of the British Empire. But these are ideas of a consummation devoutly to be wished, which, in present circumstances, some may think chimerical even to mention, and which we are, by no means, sanguine in our expectations of seeing speedily brought into a promising train of commencement. In the mean time a proprietor, of a liberal mind, more ambitious to provide for the future aggrandizement of his family fortune, than solicitous to squeeze from his tenants a temporary supply to his coffers, ought never to lose sight of this object, and should endeavour gradually to prepare the people for its accomplishment in due season. Before the renewal of leases, a well digested scheme of the most rational and practicable improvements should be laid down, with the approbation of sensible people acquainted with the country and zealous for its good. The lands should be given to substantial tenants, specifically bound, by the tenor of their tacks, to co-operate with the proprietor, on terms of mutual equity, in bringing this salutary scheme into execution. Little, its true, can be done to improve the lands in general, yet something may. Sufficient encouragement should be given to each tacksmen, to inclose and cultivate, to the best advantage, the few arable spots, or such as may, by skillful and economical management, be rendered arable, for raising, chiefly, if not wholly, hay and other green crops for provender ;

vender; while all the rest of the farm, secured at its outmost boundaries, by proper fences, should be laid out for pasture, on which either a good stock of black cattle or of sheep, might be reared. There should be either no common, or as little as the nature of circumstances can possibly admit.

The lowest class of people now, in effect, a burden on the hands of the landholders, an annoyance to one another, in many instances rather a nuisance than useful members of society, in a state of wretched dependence, of inactivity and of want, should be gradually weaned from the clumsy system in use; and taught, instead of labouring for a pitiful subsistence from the scanty and precarious fruits of a sterile soil, to look for a more secure and comfortable maintenance in the profits arising from their manual industry employed in a different line. They might be collected into villages, erected for them, on those parts of the coast that lie most contiguous to the fishing grounds. They should be supplied, at a moderate price, in meal, and constantly furnished with the proper materials to work on, both when athore and when at sea. They should be free to prosecute the fishing for their own immediate benefit, and made to feel the advantage of working for themselves. They should have little or no land to withdraw their attention from these new pursuits. Thus situated, at first their wants and afterwards their ambition will prompt them to follow the line of industry now pointed out; and if the habits of the people are once formed to it, men of sufficient capitals may embark in this design at their head with a fair prospect of success.

The proprietor should, at all times, give ample encouragement to every public institution calculated to extend the means of religious instruction, to educate the rising generation in a knowledge of the elements of literature and rudiments

ments of industry, to reform the habits and remove the prejudices of the people at large, to introduce the arts of civilized life, and to promote the happiness of the community.

It is to be hoped, that the legislator will no longer hold a deaf ear to the universal cry of the poor people on the western coasts; and that in consequence of a wise modification of the salt laws, they may all soon have access to a sufficient quantity of that most necessary article, to cure their fish, for home consumption, on reasonable terms.

N U M B E R XXIX.

P A R I S H O F T I R Y.

(*Presbytery of Mull.—Synod and County of Argyle.*)

By the Reverend Mr ARCHIBALD M'COLL.

Name.

TIRY or Tir-I seems to import the country belonging to I. or Iona, this island lying within 10 leagues of Icolmkil. It appears to have been, in the time of St Columba, part of the patrimony of the church, and to have supplied that famous seat of learning with considerable quantities of grain. It had a more ancient name, *Rioghachd bar"fo thuin*, i. e. 'The kingdom whose summits are lower than the waves,' and this name, still used in romantic tales, indicates the natural situation of the island, the lowest and flattest country perhaps in Scotland. The waves are often seen, from the one shore, rising several feet above the level of the rocks upon the other. Coll or Colla is another island, making part of the parish of Tiry, separated E. by N. from Tiry, by a sound about a league broad. In this sound lies the island of Gunna, a mile long and half a mile broad. There are besides several uninhabited islets, such as the two Soas, Ellen-mor, &c.

Extent.—On the W. the prospect from this parish is bounded only by the Atlantic Ocean. The Isles of Barra, Uist, Sky, Rum, Egg, Canna, and Monk, with the hills of Morven, Moidart, Morthir, Arafaig, and Cnoidart, are seen at a distance, with Ardmurchan and Mull more in the neighbourhood, and at near triple the distance, Isla, Jura, Collonla, and Scarba, with the mainland of Argyle, may be discerned. The parish extends, nearly in a straight line, from W. by S. to E. by N. about 29 English miles, including the sound. Of this extent, Tiry is about 11 miles long, and near $2\frac{1}{2}$ broad, and Coll about 14 long and 2 broad. The whole contains nearly 25000 acres.

Surface, &c.—The coast is mostly rocky, intersected with many beautiful sandy bays, some of them a mile broad at the head. The Bay of Gott is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles round the head; and the ground so firm, that a horse at full gallop makes an impression not above half an inch deep. About the half of Tiry is arable, interspersed with small rocks and rising grounds: There are five or six green hills; three of them from 200 to 300 feet above the level of the sea. There are 24 lakes, covering about 600 acres, some of which might be easily drained; trouts cannot live in them, owing to the incredible number of eels. There are no marshes and scarcely any dangerous bogs; for though a great part of this flat surface, in a rainy season, be wet, the bottom is either rock or firm sand. In the interior parts, about 1200 acres of ground were, till within these three years, common to the whole inhabitants, but they are now inclosed and included in the adjacent farms. This ground is mostly heath, of very small growth. The soil seems to have been of considerable depth, though, having been often cut for fuel, the rocks are now exposed. At every bay lies invariably a tract of sandy ground,

ground, either arable, green mounts, or broken banks, perhaps 40 or 50 feet high. This sand, in course of time, driven by the winds, and not prevented by a coat of seaweeds, or heavy earth, ascends into the interior parts, and lays waste large tracks of ground.

Though Coll consists also of low ground, it differs much from Tiry. The coast is bolder. Not above a 16th part of it is arable. The inhabitants by industry make good crops by delving. Though rugged and unfriendly to the plough, it affords excellent shelter for cattle. A very considerable part is heath, and mossy ground, partly convertible into arable. It contains 48 small lakes, 19 of them abounding in trouts.

The whole of Tiry and the two ends of Coll are the property of the Duke of Argyle, who is also patron. The middle part of Coll (above two thirds of the island) is the property of the Laird of Coll, who chiefly resides in the parish. Tradition says, that the whole property descended, from Macdonald of the Isles, to the Macleans. By marriage the Macleans retained it till the family of Argyle obtained right to the greatest part of Mull, Morven, and Tiry. The real rent of the parish is near 2000 l.

Soil, Produce, Cultivation.—The soil of Tiry is various; sandy, mossy, clay, and black earth, with their different compositions. The sandy soil prevails, and produces very poor crops, except when very well manured. If sown early, there is danger of blowing; if late, of summer drought. The country being flat, even a short continuance of rain endangers the vegetation in the lower grounds. Two-thirds of the whole arable ground are either too wet or too dry; and almost the whole surface is exposed to storms. The returns, *communibus annis*, are about 4 seeds from barley, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ from small black oats (the prevailing sorts of grain) and about 5 from

from potatoes, of which a great quantity is planted, mostly in lazy beds. Drilling potatoes is now introduced. The increase is from 8 to 20 seeds, and the incumbent has seen it at 32. They tell of far superior increase in grain, when the land was in good condition. There were then scarcely tenants sufficient to occupy the lands, though now they are so numerous, that the ground is set in too small portions to accommodate perhaps 12 or 24 of them in one farm, each paying from 1 l. to 4 l. 4 s. of yearly rent. The consequence is, they plough as much as they can; and their lands are impoverished, as they seldom get rest. Above two-thirds of the manure are sea-weed. The great quantity of salt they contain is, indeed, poison to many weeds; but as they soon putrify and dissolve, and, as a stimulus, produce their effect, they cannot last long, nor add much to the soil, having but little earth. Till the middle of June, the cattle are suffered to pasture on the corn, which also very much prevents a better return. Such practices, with the unfavourable climate, make the crop precarious. The soil of Coll, though broken with rocks, is preferable, and the returns are in proportion. Repeated trials have been made of sowing great white oats. The ground was either poor, too dry or too wet. They did not ripen as early as the native oats, and could not withstand the storms. Often they did not return even their seed, though they might answer well in some spots, if inclosed, drained, and sown early. The parish is under a great disadvantage in not getting a more frequent change of different feeds; and that is never enjoyed unless by a few gentlemen, at a very high expence, with many disappointments. Introducing pease, turnips, and other roots, and green crops in general, would be a great improvement, especially in this soil and climate. The native flax is scarcely 18 inches long; and there are no ways of dressing it expeditiously, whereby
it

it becomes a dear manufacture. A few experiments of sowing grafs turned out well. The natural grafs of most of the fields is red and white clover and daisy. Frequent but short rains, mixing different soils as manures, using compost dung-hills, with a great number of drains and inclosures, may promise a joyful harvest.

Seed Time, Harvest, &c.—The ordinary time of sowing oats and planting potatoes is from 26th March to the 10th May; and for barley from the 30th April to the 20th June. The harvest generally begins about the middle of August, and is finished about the 10th October. The farmers cannot well begin sowing earlier, owing to wet lands, sand blowing, and trespass of cattle; but they might to great advantage finish earlier. What mostly prevents it is, that barley is the prevailing crop, which gets two and sometimes three ploughings, and so consumes much time.

Now, as they are busy inclosing, and can therefore preserve their grounds, it is to be hoped they will attend to this particular, whence the following great advantages might arise: They might earlier sow their corn and hay, provide fuel, manufacture their kelp, fish more, and, what is now hardly thought of, manure and otherwise improve part of their farms in summer, and then finish their harvest earlier and safer; and so the whole annual rotation of work would be more seasonable.

The inhabitants commonly serve themselves in meal, feed, and spirits. Hardly any foreign spirits are now imported. The last season proved rather better. A few years ago they usually sold from 200 to 300 Scotch gallons of whisky to the neighbouring islands. The parish had then upwards of 30 stills, but is now reduced to three small licensed ones. Now the inhabitants are increased; and, in the bad seasons
of

of 1790 and 1791, they hardly distilled 300 bolls; and bought, each succeeding year, above 2000 bolls of meal at a very high rate, and their feed potatoes at 5 s. *per barrel* *.

Woods.—It plainly appears that wood formerly grew in this parish, when thinly inhabited and fewer cattle reared. Frequently large pieces of trees are found in moorles; though now there is not a tree in it, nor is it probable that upon trial any would thrive in it, the situation being so far in the ocean and without shelter. There are, indeed, some small twigs 2 or 3 feet long growing in Coll, which is better sheltered than Tirry. Espaliers rise the height of a wall, and berry bushes thrive when sheltered in gardens. The laird of Coll planted a large garden. The berry bushes thrive in it, but the young trees, though promising at first, soon discover that this is not their climate.

The Duke of Argyle supplies his tenants *gratis* with timber out of his woods on the side of Lochsunart, 60 or 70 miles off; yet it often becomes a dangerous and dear purchase, requiring the hire of boats and hands for a fortnight or upwards. The dampness of the air, and blowing of sand, upon many of the houses, soon rot the roofs, and make the demand frequent and expensive.

Waters,

* The boll of barley sells from 16 s. to 1 l. and small oats at half these prices. Potatoes from 1 s. to 2 s. 6 d. *per barrel*. The gentlemen rear so well, and the small tenants have so few cattle, that very little butter or cheese is made; 24 lib. English of each sell at 18 s.; beef from 1 l. 10 s. to 2 l. *per barrel*; fresh sizeable cod at 3 d.; ling 6 d.; swine from 5 s. to 10 s.; sheep from 4 s. to 6 s.; hens and ducks 6 d.; and live cows from 1 l. 6 s. to 3 l. 10 s. Having no fixed markets of any kind in the parish, nor way to send to them, we labour under this great disadvantage, that, when we abound, we get no articles sold, and when we must buy, it is commonly at the highest rate: When provisions are too cheap, it is not so much owing to the great abundance as to the want of a market.

Waters, Mills, &c.—Though there be a great number of brooks, Tiry mills seldom can be wrought for want of water or sufficient falls, above five or six months yearly. This makes it necessary, either to send our grain at a great expence to other countries, or use querns or hand-mills. By the lowest calculation, the work of 50 women is yearly lost at grinding. This, with the great loss of grain, which we experience, the loss of other labour, time, and expences, amounts yearly to several hundred pounds Sterling. But there is now expectation of a wind-mill *.

Minerals.

* It is remarkable that at the heads of creeks and bays, there are frequently banks formed of small round stones covered with earth, seemingly formed by the violence of the sea, though now far above high water mark.

There is a plain, called the Reef, near the center of Tiry, reckoned by travellers a very great curiosity. It is almost a pentagon of 1200 Scotch acres, with a sandy bottom mostly covered with black earth ten inches deep, a beautiful carpet variegated with flowers. It seems to have been gained from the sea; the work of ages. The part next the shore has received considerable additions within the present generation. It has three curved green banks, each about two feet high, upon which it appears the sea had formerly beat. Between these banks the ground is surprisingly plain. The greatest height above high water mark is about six feet, except a small green hill near the center, nine feet higher. The whole Reef is a common untouched by a plough. Upon the top of this hill, looking backwards from under the arm, all the objects upon the plain are seen inverted. This plain is bounded on one side by Faothail, or a small channel with a meandring current, so smooth that the motion is scarcely perceptible. It branches towards the head, which is within one third of a mile to the other shore. When swelled with rain and a high spring tide, being without a bridge, it greatly obstructs travellers. Here there is some danger of the island being cut in two, to prevent which a barricade of stone and earth was raised on the opposite shore, in one part; and the violent storms have raised a high bank of round stones in another; yet the impetuous surge sometimes baffles the whole. There is the like danger near the west end of Coll among the sand banks.

Minerals.—Hard whinstone prevails in this parish, yet there is frequently ironstone and granite, and in one farm abundance of limestone and marble. The qualities of the Tiry marble are now well known; it is sometimes pure white; sometimes red and white, or white and green; and sometimes variegated with numberless figures. It is to be hoped a correspondence will be continued, a market procured, and a marble work carried on.—There is also a lead mine at Croffapol in Coll.

Animals.—The hill of Ceanmharra, the west point of Tiry, is very remarkable for a great number of large natural caves, frequented, in time of hatching, by innumerable flocks of sea-fowls. The height of some of the caves 160 feet, the sea bellowing in below, and thousands of fowls, with discordant notes, crouding upon the cliffs, form a hideous scene. In other magnificent caves, the raven, the hawk, or the eagle, build their lofty nests. Separate from all these, the pigeons have chosen their habitations: Hither their enemy, at the risk of his life, descends a very unpleasant stair, carrying fire and a bundle of straw, to which he sets fire. The smoke suffocating them, they fly into the flames, attached to the light, apparently the passage to escape; thus numbers of them are caught. At the distance of 6 leagues westward from this hill, lie a cluster of unhospitable rocks, called Sceir-mhor, to which young adventurers, before sun rising in a calm summer day, go in quest of sport. The skins of the sea-calves, the old inhabitants of these rocks and seas, which they kill with clubs or bullets, commonly measure from six to eight feet in length.

Three sorts of wild geese frequent these isles. About the beginning of April, they all go off to places of greater security and shelter for hatching, and return as soon as their young
are

are able to accompany them. When feeding in the meadows, or fields, they are fure to keep at a distance from rocks and dykes, and have constantly a centinel. When flying they form an angle about 45 degrees inclined. The goose in the angle leads the rest, till he changes his place, and a neighbour succeeds him. Swans also, in smaller companies with their melodious march, come as passengers upon the lakes. Many thousands of gray plovers are seen together, especially upon the reef or great plain; they observe the same season with the wild-geese in hatching elsewhere. The green plovers hatch in the island. Rails are very numerous. Mouse coloured swallows inhabit the sand banks. The cuckoo is very rarely seen. Magpies, and many other birds which are upon the mainland, never appear. There are neither serpents, toads, frogs, weasels, nor venomous creatures of any kind. Rabbits are numerous, lodging in the sand in the east end of Coll; and a couple of hares introduced there, about 7 years ago, are increased to many hundreds*.

Climate,

* *Antiquities.*—There are many signs of Danish invaders having for some time possessed these isles. Among these are Fingalian and other tales repeated by the inhabitants, mentioning engagements and the names of chieftains. At this day they point out their burying-places, whence the ground derives its name. Nor are their *dins*, forts, or watch-towers, less remarkable. There are 39 remains of them in the two islands, generally built on rocks, round the whole coast, and within sight of some other. They are said to have been used, when an enemy appeared, for suddenly alarming the country by the signal of fire. There are two walls without any appearance of lime or other cement. The inner is circular, and the outer often assumes the figure of the rock on which it is founded. The whole of these isles and a considerable part of the mainland were named *Inseadh-Gaul*, which signifies the isles or places of security for strangers.

There are 15 remains of old chapels or churches, at some of which are burying-grounds and crosses still to be seen. There

Climate, Diseases, Population, &c.—Durable frost or snow is very rare, and the air is tempered by the sea; yet it may be called a cold climate, in winter, without any shelter. It may also be called rainy three fifths of the year. When there is

is at the chapel of Kilkeneth in Tiry a burying ground so sandy, that, by blowing, heaps of human bones are seen, and coffins often exposed, before half consumed. It is now surrounded by sand banks higher than the side walls; they no longer bury here. Alongst the coasts, in many parts, are buried the remains of drowned persons cast ashore. At the above hill of Ceanmharra, on a very rugged declivity, is situated St Patrick's temple. The vestige of a wall incloses it in one third of an acre of land. It is 26 by 11 feet within walls; the side walls $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet high; one gable six inches thicker than the other; without a roof, and ill built of stone and lime. A square altar in the east end is still 18 inches high. The cross without the pedestal 4 feet. Within 60 yards of it, at the shore on the top of a rock, is made a hollow, 2 feet diameter and 4 deep, called by the country people St Patrick's Vat. There are 9 or 10 long stones, in different parts of the parish, seemingly erected as monuments. British, Danish, and other small silver coins, in small earthen vessels, have often been dug out of mosses and sandy ground. Two years ago, was discovered a bent tubular piece of gold about 2l. value, the two ends not closely joined, and not unlike a fort of ear-ring. In a stack-yard at Cornaigbeg in Tiry, in digging pits in sandy ground to secure potatoes during winter and spring, there were found at different times human skeletons, and nigh them the skeletons of horses. They seemed to have been compleatly armed, according to the times. Two handed swords were found diminished with rust; silver work preserved the handles; there were also shields and helmets, with a brass spear. Nigh this was discovered another skeleton, holding the skeleton of an infant in its arms. It is proposed to dig more of this ground. Some of these curiosities are in the possession of the Duke of Argyle.

In Coll near the family seat (a good modern house three stories high with wings, &c.) is the old habitation, a square built castle, with turrets and some lower additions. The main building is still roofed; the whole apartments are distinct. Near the center of Tiry is a lake with an island in it, whereupon was built a similar castle; the access by a made road and draw bridge. Upon the ruins of this, in 1748, was erected a house with a garden for the Duke of Argyle's factor. The island was sometime ago made a peninsula.

is frost on the mainland, there is often mild weather in these islands; when snow in the one, there is often but rain in the other. The rain water lodges on this flat surface; and with the exhalations from so many lakes, in calm weather, often rises in mist. An inland country, in this damp situation, would be very unhealthy; but the healthy sea air generally drives away whatever is noxious. The houses of the common people are generally in dry situations and remarkably warm, built as usual in sandy islands (partly through want of stones, which are ill to quarry, but mostly out of choice,) of an inner and outer single wall, filled up in the middle with sandy earth from 4 to 6 feet thick. The people are lively, industrious, and chearful, and often engaged in active employments, in the open air; yet the dampness of the place, the want of proper firing, and the poor living of many, seem to be the great causes of frequent rheumatisms, dysenteries, and nervous fevers. Draining of the lakes, and flat grounds, may add much to the salubrity of the place. Both isles, upon the whole, appear to be healthy from the great age to which many of the inhabitants attain.

Number of souls in Tiry,		From 80 to 90	-	7	
in March 1792	2416	From 90 to 100	-	5	
Males	-	1184	Annual average of bap-		
Females	-	1232	tisms in Tiry, for 6		
Under 10	-	663	years	-	95
From 10 to 20	-	573	Marriages ditto	-	16
From 20 to 50	-	737	Families	-	467
From 50 to 70	-	334	Farmers	-	270
From 70 to 80	-	77	Workmen	-	66
From 80 to 90	-	22	Cottars	-	131
From 90 to 100	-	9	Families in Coll	-	199
Above 100	-	1	Farmers	-	97
					Number

Number of souls in Coll,	Workmen	-	37
in January 1793 - 1041	Cottars	-	65
Males - - 497	Total population of both		
Females - - 544	iflands -		3457
Under 10 - 322	Return to Dr Webster		
From 10 to 20 - 203	from Tiry in 1755		1509
From 20 to 50 - 346	— from Coll, ditto		1193
From 50 to 70 - 132	Total - -		2702
From 70 to 80 - 26	Increase since 1755		755

The Tiry-man above 100, was allowed to be 106, at his death, in spring last. Except for the last 7 years he supported himself and wife by herding. His liveliness appeared to the last, not only by walking but dancing. There are no registers of births or burials, and the parish records preceeding the present incumbent's time have been lost.

There are not 40 natives of any other parish in the two isles. Tradesmen are numerous, yet some good ones are much wanted. It is not easy to calculate their number, because, in general, they are not distinct from farmers. Many men and women work at the weaving business. There are very few batchelors or widowers. The men frequently marry at 19 or 20. The population has been also increased, within these 14 years, by three successful courses of inoculation.

The situation of the parish is dismal without a surgeon residing in it. Poor people cannot afford sending occasionally for a surgeon, to a distant country, at great expences, with frequent disappointments; the raging elements forbid it; or perhaps before the relief arrive, the hope of the family is no more. Too often has the present incumbent seen child-bed women, in particular, fall sad sacrifices without relief. It is too much for this parish, without manufactures, and without greater

greater improvements in agriculture, to support 3457 inhabitants, if they should be free of other burdens. Yet the people have often and cordially united to make up a small salary, according to their abilities, and bestowed it upon young surgeons, who resided now and then amongst them, considering it as a temporary appointment. There are now so many pious mortifications, so many public funds raised upon charitable foundations; if, in this respect, the situation of this parish was represented and known, Is there any part in Scotland in greater need of relief from them? A fund of this kind, with a farm to reside on, together with what a surgeon could add to it by his practice, might be an object worth attention to some gentleman of that profession. In the time of the last American war, in one twelvemonth 120 youths, and in this spring above 100, left this island for the service of their country. Does not this merit attention in many respects?

Fuel.—Coll Island abounds in moss of the best quality for peats, but at such distances from some of the farms, that coals bought at moderate prices, would be far cheaper. One end of Tiry can, for a few years, make peats, but in the other end near 200 families are reduced to the greatest distress. They are robbed of the most valuable season, in which they should be improving their farms, in ruining, in fleaing them, 2 or 3 inches deep, wherever there is the smallest mixture of moss in the soil. They have now exposed the rocks in many places. Necessity finds out many shifts. Sometimes in spring they gather dried horse dung; they even burn straw, and then comes the last shift, burning the roofs of their houses or some of their furniture.

Manufactures and Fishery.—This parish, in its present situation, is so over peopled, that, though the lands be still occupied

cupied by small tenants, 1200 or 1500 males and females, above eight year old. might be spared for fishing and other manufactures. For which purpose, wherever the situation admits of it, every farm, especially those from 30 to 200 inhabitants, should be subdivided and inclosed to one, or at most four tenants each division. These few would be more disposed to improve their farms than now, in common with many, whose main study is to plough all they can, though but ill prepared for a good crop. Numerous inhabitants are agreeable, and have their uses. Here they may be made still more numerous; but when with a view to serve them all, lands in common are divided into very small portions, such families can never thrive. If the superfluous number of tenants were converted into manufacturers, the remaining ones would be more easily enabled to pay their rents, even if augmented, live better, educate their children, and sell more to support the manufacturers, who in return would enrich the country from a variety of sources. As this parish, when improved, might support a village in most of the necessaries of life, besides the above divisions, for the encouragement of tradesmen, a convenient situation should be chosen for inclosures of a few acres, for greens, roots, grass seeds, &c. which, though some of them could not afford to keep a horse, they might improve like a garden with the spade, or by occasionally hiring a horse or plough. Lands, in common with others, would ruin a tradesmen, whereas such separate possessions would cause a great emulation for improvements, and would be equally to the advantage of proprietors and tenants.

The ingredients with which any country abounds, point out the manufactures proper to begin with. Accordingly, as part of this soil could produce good flax, the culture of, and preparation of it should be studied, as none of these are well understood here. The abundance of a superior quality of clay,

clay, points out another source of manufactures. Applying kelp might be applied to several uses, salt so convenient to the western fisheries, might be made here. Several other manufactures, of which the materials are easily imported, might be tried, such as working of nets, stockings, &c. The marble also might employ many hands. Above all, fishing should never be neglected in Tiry and Coll, one of the best stations in all the western isles. The attempts that have been made, and the several fishing banks daily discovered confirm this. The country being flat, the seas near it will not naturally be deep. Some of the banks are close to the shore. Experienced fishers observe that, of all the places they know, this is nearest to the fishing grounds. In summer 1787, there were several companies of natives employed, and, though of little experience, they caught at one setting of 200 or 300 hooks, from 30 to 80 cod and ling, besides a variety of skate, eels, dol-fish, &c. and those who had harpoons and lines caught at the same time sail-fish, each yielding from 5 to 8 barrels oil. Herrings frequent the bay of Gott, yet there are no nets on the island. There are yearly companies from Barra, who prefer this to their own island, especially as less fatiguing. These having more experience, are more successful than our men. There have been also adventurers from Ireland and the east of Scotland successful. In one sloop particularly, though they concealed their success, they seemed, from their heaps upon the shore, to have caught in 2 months, from 12000 to 15000 cod and ling. There are, this year, some companies from Barra, one from Ayr, and one only of the natives. They commonly catch from 100 to 240 *per* day, so that sometimes they do not raise their whole lines at once; their boats not being able to carry the fish ashore. Notwithstanding such a promising prospect, of their having, with a great number of fishing yawls, 10 boats in the parish, partly decked, which
carry

carry from 3 to 14 tons, of their lying so conveniently upon the spot, and of having many hardy seamen amongst them, they do not, in this district, pursue the fishing with spirit. The reasons are obvious. They are mostly farmers having a small portion of land, in common with many, which requires daily attendance. Farming in common, and other branches of business, can never thrive in the same hands. Poor people who have a sure, though perhaps a starving way of supporting their families, seldom risk their small fortunes, and of their own accord begin a new branch of business. The danger of not being successful frightens them. When a considerable stock is necessary for fitting them out, the plan is relinquished as ideal. Surely the expence in boats, hands, hooks, harpoons, lines, &c. is considerable, and the storms often break their lines and buoys. If a man could spare, from his daily employment, time to catch 200 or 300 cod and ling, they turn out to little avail without a purchaser at hand. The good effects of the Crinan canal are only yet seen at a distance. If the fisher cures with prohibited salt, they are seizable on the way to market; he finds it too chargeable for his small cargo, to visit the custom-house so often, and observe all its regulations for salt, nor indeed does he understand them, he prefers to give triple price for it elsewhere. I have seen country lads from neglect of forms like to be ruined, and even gentlemen who knew business suffer much. If these regulations must be kept in force without exception, without amendment, a bar to fishing, should not some wellwisher to his country collect and explain them to low capacities? Thus in the small attempts, the great things that might arise from them are in effect discouraged.

Procuring aid to the natives, from some public fund, to purchase lines, hooks, harpoons, &c. would raise a spirit of emulation to make more attempts, especially as an easy communication

munication with Clyde will soon be opened. Some person residing constantly in the parish, with a store of salt to purchase whatever quantity might be caught, even in winter and spring, when some of the fish are best in season, might be of essential service. But of all encouragements to make them persevere, the best is, to improve some harbours or creeks in the most convenient places; at least one upon the N. side, convenient for the great bank between Tiry and Barra, but one third nearer Tiry; and on the S. side *Scairnish*, the common harbour, which admits of considerable improvements. In its present state the entrance is very dangerous, being too long, and in most places not above 40 yards wide, between two rocks, and a third lying cross at the very entrance. When in stormy weather the wind is S. or W. a heavy swell from the Atlantic enters the harbour. When the wind is N. N. by E. or N. W. a vessel that might come within a few fathoms of the shore, must sheer off again to sea in a storm. When within the harbour, the wind may be many days fair for a voyage, but a vessel cannot get out of it. At once to prevent such misfortunes and make the island much more valuable, a small expence may build a quay, at least as far out as it ebbs, to be secured from the impetuous surge, partly with timber and iron, but mostly with loose stones behind, which are at hand. A short quay at each side of the entrance, overlapping each other, with small breast works within, may be the most eligible. Near this, on the W. side of the bay of Gott, is excellent anchoring ground. It opens southwards, is within 2 miles of the E. end of the island, and runs near 2 miles into the land. The bottom is sand mixed with clay and sea grass; and, though sometimes there be a swell, I have seen vessels ride, in great storms, without driving one foot. The entrance is very safe, and the depth gradually decreasing, from 16 fathoms, to the smallest

for a mile inwards. There is a good place for a quay by it. It were to be wished that this bay was better known, being most convenient for vessels which do not hold through the founds, and might prevent many shipwrecks, one of which happened so lately as March last. There are also on the S. side of Coll, Loch-Iothuirn and Loch-Breacachy, stations where vessels frequently anchor, and which might be much improved. A knowledge of these harbours is the more necessary, as there are in many places on the coasts a great swell, strong currents, and many rocks, as *Sceir-mhor* westward, and the Cairn of Coll eastward.

Sheep, Black Cattle, and Horses.—A few years ago there were at least 14,000 sheep in these isles. The Laird of Coll banished them almost out of his lands. The inclemency of the seasons reduced them in Tiry. There are not now above 1100 in the parish. Though in other countries a most beneficial stock, they are most destructive, especially to Tiry. There is not a sufficient range for them. They do not thrive in summer owing to certain weeds; nor in winter on account of the wetness of the pasture. Where the grass is thin and short, they tear up by their feet the very roots for food. They lodge in hollows for shelter, and so break the sward, and expose the sand to be driven by the winds, whence whole fields are ruined, becoming white banks. Tiry pasture is already too fine. Sheep convert the little coarse grass there is into a finer pile, to the great prejudice of black cattle, as it subjects them, when ferried to another country, to the distemper called murrain or bloody urine, and consequently reduces a third of their price, till they get one winter's seasoning elsewhere. Yet if the sheep were banished, it would be necessary to contract for years with sheep-graziers, whereby wool might be provided to the inhabitants at a moderate rate.

The

The black cattle of Tiry and part of Coll, which have no access to pasture in heathy ground, are subject as above to the murrain, or in Gaelic *airneach*, probably from its affecting the kidneys. It seems to be communicated either from the milk or fine grass, or from both. However, when sheep are banished, the coarse grass inclosed and encouraged to grow, being the best pasture for calves and young cattle, it becomes at least such a seasoning as may prevent the above distemper. Then such cattle, deducing the inconveniencies of ferrying, might most probably sell as high as any in the Highlands. There are beautiful cattle reared here, especially of late, which, when sent to English pasture, grow to an amazing size. One of them, of which we lately had an account, fed by Mr Spearman of Northumberland, 1790, weighed in beef, tallow, and hide, 117 stone $5\frac{1}{4}$ lib.

Except upon gentlemens farms, who occupy two fifths of the land, there is not one third more of black cattle than of horses. This cannot be effectually rectified by the present division of the lands and plan of husbandry.

Number of horses in			Number of horses in		
Tiry	-	1400	Coll	-	500
Number of Sheep	-	600	Number of sheep	-	500
Tons of kelp manufac-			Tons of kelp manufac-		
tured	-	245	tured	-	55
Ploughs	-	160	Ploughs	-	34
Black cattle	-	1800	Black cattle	-	1300
Ditto yearly ferried	-	260	Ditto yearly ferried	-	250
Ditto ditto slaughtered	-	70	Ditto ditto slaughtered	-	30

A few years ago the number of horses was much greater; orders were given to reduce them in both islands. A four year old native horse sells from 2 l. to 5 l. In Tiry, they might be

be reduced to 250 good ones, with some mares. What makes the ploughs so very numerous, is, that commonly they only plough from the beginning of March to the 20th June. —At least one third of the kelp is made of wrack, cast by storms upon the shores.

The black cattle and horses are mostly in a starving condition. The latter, when their pasture is very bare in winter and spring, tear up the ground with their feet to come at the roots. Many tenants keep two or three cows, which have not a calf for years together. One informed me of his having a cow ten years old, that never had but one calf. Another, that he keeps three or four cows, but had not a calf for six years.

Agriculture, &c.—Inclosures are lately begun. The above facts shew the necessity of continuing them, and subdividing farms to a few tenants that may be able to keep carts. After a little amendment of the roads, with the money that is raised, or the services that may be exacted, there is no country better calculated for them. As yet there are only five in the parish. A small light Scotch plough is mostly used. Great is the necessity of getting timber, and a proper wright. The method of ploughing by one man, two horses, and long reins, is used only by two in the parish; but might very easily be practised by getting a stronger breed of horses. Instead of this, 4 men and 7 horses often attend the same furrow; two men and 5 horses the plough; 2 men and 2 horses the ristle, or sharp iron nearly the shape of a coulter, but bent further forward, and like it fixed in a beam, with two handles to cut the tough sward before the plough, which follows in the same line. When in one farm 4 or 13 ploughs are set agoing, and 30 or perhaps 96 horses with creels sent to carry sea-ware off the shore, besides some idle mares and followers, such a farm

farm takes many hands and horses, and labouring must prove dear. A change of method is indeed required; and fishing with manufactures to employ so many superfluous hands. Though the people be naturally attached to their ancient modes, yet whenever they see new methods pursued to perfection in inclosed farms, and work carried on much more profitably, expeditiously, and cheaply, they will readily comply*.

Character and Customs of the People.—The common people are not very attentive to the ordinances of religion, but are now reforming, as the gentlemen shew them a good example. They still retain some Roman Catholic sayings, prayers, and oaths, as expletives; such as ‘*Dias Muire let,*’ i. e. God and Mary be with you. ‘*Air Muire,*’ swearing by Mary, &c. They are free of superstition, and make a considerable progress in knowledge. There is no schism from the established church; and none of any other persuasion, except now and then a few Roman Catholic servants from Barra. It is a great advantage to their morals that there are only three licensed small stills, and four public houses at the ferries and harbours in both isles. For generations back, there has been
no

* About 4 years ago, the yearly wages and gratuities of a labourer amounted only to 2l. 12 s. and of a female servant to 1 l. but they are now increased near a third, owing mostly to the servants frequenting the low country. Small tenants give them much more. Another cause of the increase of wages is the enlisting so many men for the army, particularly the fencible corps, with promises of possessions to their friends or to themselves at their return. Hence partly so many small divisions of lands and the poverty of the tenants. Workmen with their families are engaged for a fourth or fifth of the whole crop and grass. In some countries they can more easily triple these wages; their possessions, their soil, their markets, and plans of labouring, can better afford it. Tradesmen have from 7 d. to 1 s. 2 d. *per day*, besides victuals.

no robbery, murder, or suicide. In general they are subtle, and not easily deceived. They are mannerly, lively, and ingenious, very hospitable to strangers, and kind to the distressed. And though it be impossible to answer for the behaviour of all the common people, if left at liberty, the shipwrecked have always found protection and safety from the best families.

Tradition tells us of the remarkable stature, strength, and valour, of John the Great, the laird of Coll's predecessor. He, in several battles, conquered the Macneils of Barra, who pretended right to his lands, and established himself in the heritage, handed down to him from Macdonald of the Isles. The Macniels burying-grounds are pointed out to day, in many places in Coll. Though Neil his brother was not near equal in strength, he could raise to his breast three stones, on top of each other, weighing at least 16 cwt. The stones remain still at the place.

A country man, who died last year about 5 feet 10 inches high, was employed by the laird of Coll as post to Glasgow or Edinburgh. His ordinary burden thence to Coll was 16 stone. Being once stopt at a toll near Dumbarton, he humorously asked whether he should pay for a burden, and upon being answered in the negative, carried his horse in his arms past the toll.

Indeed, though of an ordinary size, the people are remarkable for agility. They frequently entertain themselves by composing and singing songs, by repeating Fingalian and other tales, by dancing assemblies at different farms by turns. In this qualification they are remarkably neat. They are very chearful and humorous, and there are not above two or three of either sex corpulent in either isle.

Poor and Schools.—They are very attentive to the poor in sickness and want. They rarely have cash, but liberally bestow grain, &c. The kirk-session funds do not afford to give annually above 3 s. to each of 50 poor in Tiry, and 34 in Coll. There are also 5 s. or 6 s. allowed to help their interments.

Whatever these Islanders may be behind their neighbours, any where on the mainland, is wholly owing to their great disadvantages as to education. I hope the period is now arrived when the cloud shall be dispelled. Till lately there were only 10 l. of a parochial salary for a school. Nine years ago, the Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge, bestowed 10 l. for another school. These two schools generally had not ten scholars each. The people had not taste for education, and there were complaints against the teachers. The Society have, since the Reverend Dr. Kemp's visit, added to these salaries a sum that enables the teachers to teach all gratis, and bestowed a number of books upon them. The Duke of Argyle is pleased to add so much for provisions which the parish should make. A salary is now granted, by the Society, for a school in Coll. I doubt not but they shall henceforth be all well attended, if the schoolmasters be well chosen. There are now often from 60 to 80 scholars in each. From whatever source funds may be obtained to accomodate this parish properly, Tiry requires 4 schools and Coll two.

Our congregations were untaught fingers, till the beginning of this year. An itinerant church music teacher, with a small salary, employed by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, was sent for. He teaches at so cheap a rate, that it is belived 800 or 900 in the parish will attend him this year. The good effects may be great. Singing is
already

already become agreeable, even to the old and illiterate. Men at 70 years of age attend.

Sewing schools, and especially spinning schools, are much required, as the women in general are very backward in these respects *.

Emigration.—Thirty-six men, women, and children, emigrated from Coll to America in 1792. None hitherto has emigrated from Tiry, though some talk of doing so. Their crops failed in 1790 and 1791, which, together with the low prices of kelp and cattle, has much reduced them. They must soon go somewhere for relief, unless manufactures be introduced to employ them.

Ferries.—There is a stated ferry between Tiry and Coll, often very dangerous, owing to a heavy swell from the Atlantic, to rapid currents and amazing breakers, over rocks and shifting sands. There is a stated ferry between Coll and Mull, 8 or 12 miles to the landing places. It is dangerous, on account of rapid currents at Loch-Iothurn and the point of Caileach in Mull, and difficult of access to the harbours. There is no stated ferry between Tiry and Mull. The shortest distance from land to land is 21 miles; but above 30 between the usual landing places. The fare for a stout boat and hands here, is from 12s. to 15s. For travelling correspondence and markets, there is great need of a packet between these isles and Mull, especially if Tobermory, the nearest post office town, increases. It is to be hoped, when the

* A few of the common people speak English. They all speak Gaelic, which has a greater similarity to the most ancient, than to the modern languages. And as it has little dependence upon other languages, it may not be so copious; but it has this great advantage, that the lowest peasant easily comprehends the highest style.

the Crinan canal will be finished, that there will be an increase of trade in all the western isles, and that then, instead of asking a salary, some may find it their interest to apply for leave to keep packets. The run from Tiry to Crinan, by the west side of Mull, will be straight, and hardly exceeding 90 miles. Such a packet would find her business daily increase, from coals, marble, fish, beef, potatoes, &c.

Church and Stipend.—There are three places of worship in the parish. The stipends hitherto have not exceeded 50 l. together with 16 l. 13 s. 4 d. in lieu of a manse, glebe, and communion elements. There is also a salary of 33 l. 6 s. 3 d. given to an Assistant in Coll. The whole teinds of the parish, by decreets 1726, 1729, and 1733, are 211 bolls victual, two-thirds bear, and one third oat meal, together with 294 l. 5 s. 6 d. Scotch. The *ip/a corpora* stipend, or tenth part, was taken up so late as 1752. There is now a process of augmentation commenced. At Sorbie in Tiry was the mother church of the deanry of the isles.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—The only advantages we can be said to have, are, that the proprietors of these isles have always manifested an inclination that their tenants should live comfortably; that our lands, though impoverished, are very improveable; and that the fishing, if encouraged and attended to, may be very considerable. The circumstances of not getting salt without great plague and danger, and the markets turning out badly, when the first attempts were made, have discouraged the natives; whereas, in their situation, they require not only the countenance of the law, but even aid, at first, to purchase lines, harpoons, &c. It is necessary also to improve the harbours. For this purpose, many vessels that frequent the island would cheerfully pay a small anchorage, even with-

out the trouble of an act of Parliament. Humanity will feel for our dismal situation without a Surgeon. The want of a proper mill is a heavy grievance, and the loss of several hundred pounds Sterling. We are in great need of markets, and easier communication with towns; and also of a village and manufactures within ourselves, to occupy our superfluous hands. We need much a change of feed, introducing of green crops, inclosing, draining, and subdividing small farms. How can we improve our farms without tradesmen, carts, a better breed of horses to expedite our labour, and banishing so many hundred weak horses, to rear black cattle in their place? We spend the best season of the year, which should be otherwise usefully employed, in providing fuel, in ruining the face of our farms; while there is such an unequal duty upon coals, and yet we must soon buy them at whatever price*. Our loyal and vigorous youth are ready, at a call, to serve their King and country; and if any place in Scotland can claim a preference, in an exemption from the coal duty, it is this Atlantic Isle.

NUM-

* This was written before the late repeal of the coal duty.

NUMBER XXX.

PARISH OF PENNYCUICK.

(Presbytery of Dalkeith.—Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale.—County of Midlothian.)

By the Reverend Mr THOMAS M'COURTY.

Name.

IN old writings the name of the parish is Pennycook, now commonly Pennycuik, said to signify in Gaelic *Gouk's* (or *Cuckoo's*) *Hill*, probably from the number of these birds that haunt the surrounding woods in spring. It was the opinion of the late worthy Sir James Clerk, that a former proprietor, principal heritor of the parish, gave it this name after his own; but that the original one was St Mungo's, (in Norwegian Dear Friend,) the name given to St Kentigern by Servanus, Bishop of Orkney, by whom he was educated about the middle of the 6th century *.

There

* There is a well in the minister's garden, near the church, called *St Mungo's well*; and in the church yard there is the following inscription upon a grave stone.

Æ M.

Alexandri Stratiani
qui Scholae ad Montem Cuculi
In parochia Sancti Quintigerni
diligentissima Cura praefuit
Octogenarius obiit
Prid. Cal. April.
Anno salutis humanae
MDCCXXXIII.

Qui

There are the remains of two chapels in the parish, *St Mary's*, at a place called *Monklothian*, at the S. and *St Catherine's* at the N end of the parish; each of these has a burying place. On one side of a recess on the S. of Pentland Hills to the westward, and at the edge of an old track leading over to the N side of these hills, on an eminence called the Cross Sword, is a stone of an oblong square figure, 2 feet 10 inches by 3 feet, and about 1 foot thick. sunk into the ground, with a hole cut in the middle of it 13 inches by 10, and 9 inches deep, supposed to have been the pedestal of a cross. On the other or west side of the recess, on a height near a mile distant, is a stone somewhat resembling the former, but larger, with an oval basin 20 inches by 10, scooped out of the middle, and two niches on one side apparently for a person's knees. It is called by the country people the Font Stone. The name of the hill on which it is placed is called Monk's Ridge. It is also at the side of an old path, leading over in the same direction with the former, called Monk's Road. The original seat of the old proprietors of St Mungo's is still to be traced on an eminence above the Esk, and about half-way betwixt the village and the present house of Pennycuik. It is now called the Tower, but the old name was Terregles (*Terra Ecclesiae, Terre d'Eglise*) no doubt from the domains on which it stood, near an equal distance from the other 2 chapels, and about half a mile west from the present

Qui ferulâ pueros rexit feliciter olim,
 Nunc ferulâ superans occupat Elysiûm.
 Navita Tartarius tremuit; Stygiaeque per undas
 Incubuit remis: verbera laeva timens,
 Cerberus effugit. Latranti porrigere offam
 Noluit ille terox advena, sed ferulam.
 Ast ea dum fingunt alii, praeceptor amate!
 Possideas requiem quam Deus ipse dedit.
 Praeceptorî suo doctissimo M. P. D. I. C.

sent church. All these circumstances, together with its proximity to Peeblesshire, which was in the diocese of Glasgow, show, that this parish was originally church land, and confirm the opinion that it took its name from the Saint above mentioned.

Extent, Soil, &c.—The parish is extensive, being 11 or 12 miles long and 6 broad, but in many places intersected by large corners of other parishes. The Esk runs through the middle of it from W. to E. and almost divides the parish. The Pentland Hills stretch from E. to W. upon the north side of the parish. The highest of these hills is 1600 feet above the level of the sea at Leith.—The soil is various, consisting of clay, gravel, sand, and moss, with their combinations. There is but little wheat raised in the parish; oats, and barley, pease, turnips, and potatoes, succeed well, but grass seems to be the most profitable crop; the others should be attended to only in order to assist its growth. Upon the best and low grounds of the parish, the following rotation of crops will answer, viz. 1st, fallow, turnips or potatoes; 2d, barley with clover and rye grass; 3d, hay, one crop only, as the clover generally fails the second crop; 4th, oats. It is found that washing the milk dithes with water in which a little saltpetre has been dissolved, entirely removes the inconvenience to the dairy from turnip feeding, and takes away the disagreeable taste it is apt to produce in the milk.—The two horse chain ploughs with the curved mould board, for improved, and the Scotch plough, for unimproved, ground, are those commonly used. The sheep are much of the same sort, and treated in the same manner, as those in Linton parish*.

Population

* The common wages of men servants are from 5 l. to 7 l. per annum, with bed, board, and washing; women servants 3 l. with

Population Table.

Number of souls in 1755	890	Annual average of bap-	
————— in 1772	1132	tisms for 10 years	
Above 8 years of age	932	previous to 1753	27
Below 8 - -	200	Ditto to 1793 -	41
In 1793, families	- 403	Annual average of mar-	
———— individuals	1721	riages for 10 years	
Above 8 years of age	1099	previous to 1713	11
Below 8 - -	622	Ditto to 1753 -	11
Corn mills - -	3	Ditto to 1793 -	13
Barley ditto - -	2	Annual average of	
Real rent, Sterling	2110l.	deaths for 8 years	
Valued rent,		previous to 1753	26
Scotch 3780l. 3 s. 4 d.		Ditto to 1793 -	42
Heritors - -	6	Ploughs - -	44
Of whom resident	1	Carts - -	74
Feuers - -	3	Horses - -	180
Annual average of bap-		Black cattle -	636
tisms for 10 years		Sheep - -	8000
previous to 1713	27		

The chief cause of the increase is the erection of a cotton mill below the village, the first set up in Scotland, and the spirit with which two paper mills have been carried on for some time past. The cotton mill, at present, employs about 500 hands, though sometimes more.

Church

with ditto; day labourers 1 s. without, and 8 d. with victuals. In harvest, women 7 d. and men 8 d. or 9 d. with victuals; carpenters 1 s. 6 d.; masons 1 s. 8 d. *per day*; taylors 8 d. with victuals *per day*; slaters 2 s. 6 d. Beef, mutton, lamb, and veal, from 3 d. to 5 d. *per lib.* Dutch weight. Hens 1 s. or 1 s. 2 d.; chickens 8 d. *per pair*; eggs from 3 d. to 6 d. *per dozen*; oat meal from 10 d. to 1 s. 3 d. *per peck*, 8 lib. Dutch; barley and pease meal from 6 d. to 10 d. *per ditto*; potatoes from 4 d. to 9 d. *per peck*; wool from 6 s. to 9 s. *per stone*.

Church and Poor.—The church is a neat handsome building, at the east end of the village, with a portico supported by 4 doric pillars; on the top of which is a figure of a cross in stone, that occasioned some uneasiness, at the time of its erection, to the enemies of popery. There is on the front of the portico the word Bethel well cut in Hebrew characters, which likewise gave some offence. It was built in 1771, before the cotton mill, and, on that account, is now too small for the parish. Sir John Clerk of Pennycuick is patron. Mr Thomas M'Courty, formerly minister of Dolphington, was admitted here, 17th January 1772. The stipend is 78 l. 3 s. 6½ d. all paid in money, besides a manse and glebe worth about 10 l. or 12 l. *per annum*. There are now 21 poor persons upon the session roll, but often many more. They are supported from the interest of some money belonging to the session, by the hire of a hearse, and of a mortcloth, and by the weekly collections at the church door, extending all at a medium to about 28 l. *per annum*; but amounting, formerly, to a larger sum, when the family resided constantly at Pennycuick House.

Villages, Inns, and Roads.—There is only one village in the parish; the new part of which, at a little distance from the old, was built to accommodate the people belonging to the cotton mill. There is a neat small inn about the middle of the old town, which was a good deal frequented by parties of pleasure, from Edinburgh, in summer, to see the House of Pennycuick, and its fine paintings, particularly Ossian's Hall, and the pleasure ground around the house. It must be observed that there are too many dram shops, to which the people often resort, and are in danger of destroying themselves by taking too much of that poisonous liquor, cheap whisky, by which both their health and morals are greatly injured, and
their

their families much straitened Two roads pass through the parish; one to Linton or Biggar, about 2 miles to the N. of the village along the foot of the Pentland hills. The other about a mile to the S. E. passes through Howgate, and divides into two roads, the one leading to Peebles, and the other to Noblehouse. To this, at Howgate, a bye road has lately been made from the village of Pennycuick, which will be of great service. A communication is also at present forming, from the Linton road across the hills, which will give access to the eastern parts of the parish, on the other side of a range of mountains, over which there has hitherto been no easy passage.

Fuel, &c.—The fuel is coal and peat, of both which there is plenty in the parish, but the coal is not wrought. Coals are brought from Loanhead, Whitehill, Hawthorndeen, and sometimes from Carlisle. They cost at the pit 5 d. 6 d. and 7 d. *per* 2 cwt. or load, according to their quality. The peats are driven to Edinburgh for sale. There are some natural woods on the sides of the Esk. There are several Chalybeate springs; and on the S. side of the Esk, among the woods opposite to the Spittal hill, is a clear well of a bitterish taste, supposed to have both an emetic and cathartic quality. It is resorted to by the common people for bowel complaints, faintings, disorders in the blood, cancers, &c. and of course is said to have performed many wonderful cures. On the slope of a hill, on the S. side of the river, opposite to the W. end of the Spittal hill, is also another spring of a strong petrifying quality; where it oozes out of the ground it has a white appearance, seen at a considerable distance on the Linton road. A little way below this, where the river issues from between these two hills, a village is begun to be built by Mr
Brown

Brown of Newhall, at the extremity of the neighbouring parish of Linton *.

Pennycuick

* *Antiquities, &c.*—In former times there appears from the remains of towers and mansions scattered up and down, to have been many proprietors of consequence in this parish, whose history is now lost. On the S. side of the river, and beyond a considerable glen opposite to Pennycuick House, are the remains of old Ravensnook, once the property of Oliver Sinclair, brother to the laird of Roslin, who, being appointed commander in chief by King James the V. was defeated, and taken prisoner at the battle of Solway Moss, in November 1542. About a mile further up, on the N. side of the river, but high above it, are the remains of a large irregular building, (which appears to have been intended for defence, and surrounded with a ditch), called Bruntstone Castle, said to have been inhabited by the predecessors of the Earls of Dumfries. It is certain, that, in the 16th century, it was in the possession of a family of the name of Crichton; and accordingly, in one place, is the date 1568, with corresponding initials, but on the oldest part of the building are still to be seen the Douglas arms. Near to this was lately found an arrow-head of flint, ragged on the edges and barbed, about 2 inches long and one broad, which is now in the house of Pennycuick. N. W. from this house, there seems to have been a town in which some persons of consequence resided, as likewise two others, viz. Braidwood and Welshtown, in a western direction from the last, but of these no accounts have been obtained. At the N. end of the parish, up the water of Glencroft, is a ruin, remarkable for thick walls and small narrow windows, called Lodging Hirse, said to have been a hunting seat of one of the James's. About half a mile further W. are the remains of another building, commonly called the Houlets House, of which no certain account is to be found. Two miles still farther W. on the N. side of the hills, is another building, called Bavelaw, once applied to the same use also by one of these kings, which is still entire, and was lately inhabited by the former proprietor Mr Scott, but is now the property of David Johnstone of Lathriska. South from this, one of the Pentland hills takes the name of Spittal; on the N. of which, and at the side of the stream, are the vestiges of the Old Spittal or Hospital House. As the present house is removed to the neighbourhood of the Linton and Monk's Rigg Roads, the benighted traveller is still considered as having a right to protection, and one of the out houses, with some straw, is generally allotted for that purpose. The last re-

Pennycuick House.—This edifice was built about 1761 by the late very respectable proprietor formerly mentioned, (Sir James Clerk, Bart). It stands upon a flat above the Esk, and by taking advantage of a turn in the river, the back front looks up the glen formed by its banks, to the ruins of Bruntstone Castle, and the western extremity of the Pentland Hills. In a flat immediately below the House, in the same direction, is an artificial piece of water, and the garden with extensive green and hothouses. Both sides of the river are diversified with eminences and glens, and the ascents behind the garden, and on the opposite side of the river, are entirely covered with wood. The front of the House is ornamented with a handsome portico supported by eight columns, having a flight of steps on each side defended by balustrades. The materials were brought from the Mairfield Quarry near the upper end of the parish. The roof is covered with lead, and a row of vases are placed on the top. In the House are a good number of Roman antiquities cut in stone, part of which were brought from a Roman camp at Netherby, and some from Graham's Dyke.—The front of the offices lies nearly diagonally to, at the distance of 280 feet

siding proprietor of Spittal, of the name of Oswald, was accidentally shot in the back by his servant, who was following him to Slipper Field Loch, for the purpose of killing wild ducks. When the house of Pennycuick was building, Adrian Warkens, the King's printer, and another gentleman, had gone up on the Lord's day to see how far the work was advanced, and on their return, were both struck by lightning to the ground; Adrian mortally, but the other recovered. On the 21st of July 1789, a woman sitting by the fire with a child in her arms, at her breast, was struck dead by lightning; the child, having received no injury, is still alive. This happened on the same day that the thunder broke on the schoolhouse at Gladesmuir, hurt the master, and killed some of the children, and, according to report, just at the same time. There have been two instances of suicide within 22 years.

feet from, the House. They form a large square, with a rustic portico and elegant spire, with a clock in front; and, behind them, to answer the purpose of a pigeon-house, is an exact representation of the celebrated Roman temple called Arthur's Oven. To the westward, and above the level of the House, is another large piece of water well stocked with various kinds of fish. A round tower, placed on a conic eminence in front, is seen at a great distance. On the opposite side of the river, facing the S. an obelisk is raised at the end of an avenue on the top of the bank, to the memory of Allan Ramsay the famous Scotch Poet.—The approach toward the village from the tower, anciently called Terregles, along the northern declivity to the river, exhibits one of the most luxuriant and striking scenes any where to be seen. About one eighth of a mile above the garden, a timber bridge formerly crossed the river, at the S. end of which is the entry into a subterranean passage, called Hurly Cove, 49 yards long, 7 feet high, and 6 feet broad; in the middle of which, on the W. side, is a dark cell with seats cut round, capable of containing 6 or 8 people, the whole being cut out of the solid rock in 1742. At the S. end are the remains of a small summer-house, where was a little kitchen and dining room; and in the front is a pond floored with perch and trout. The large plantations of trees of various kinds, in summer, form a most beautiful amphitheatre *.

Climate,

* New Hall, about three miles above Pennycuick on the same side of the river, was, in 1529, in possession of a family of the name of Crichtoun. In 1646, it belonged to Dr Pennycuick, who was also proprietor of Romanno, and is noticed in his works. In 1702, it passed from him to Mr Cliphant, by whom it was the following year transferred to Sir David Forbes, from whom it went to Mr John Forbes brother to Duncan Forbes of Culloden; an apartment, usually occupied by this gentleman when Lord Advocate, being still known by the name of the Advocate's

Climate, Minerals, &c.—The changes of weather are often sudden and violent; the winters are severe, and the air is keen

vocate's Room. While inhabited by the Crichtouns it was an irregular castle, and with its appendages covered the whole breadth of the point on which it stands, formed by a deep recess on either side running up towards the hills from the glen behind: The ground floor in the front of the present building made a part of one of its towers; it is arched above with slits for defence on every side, and its wall is so strong as in one place to have a closet cut out of its thickness. On the N. overhanging the eastern recess, through which descends a rivulet, some vaults are left underneath the remains of a small round tower, and over the Western, which is dry, was the chapel and prison, which last is still remembered to have been used for refractory coalliers.—In the time of Dr Pennycuik, some parties from General Monk's army are reported to have been detached to this neighbourhood, and distinguished a stream that enters the glen in several considerable falls about a mile to the E. It is known by the name of Monksburn; the hill from which it descends by this tradition, was from hence called Monk's Rigg, and the glade, through which the Esk winds at its mouth, Monk's Haugh. A little below this, surrounded with rising knolls, and on three of its sides by the wooded banks of the river sweeping round far beneath, is a clear and deep lake without any visible supply or outlet. At the meeting of two glens farther up, and to the S. of Monksburn, is a singular rock, resembling a tower, called the Harbour Craig, on which are rudely carved a number of names and dates corresponding to the time of the Commonwealth, said to have been the work of some of the Covenanters who took shelter about it. The building seems to have remained unaltered till the time of Mr Forbes, when most of the old castle was pulled down, and the present double House erected in its stead in imitation of the House of Culloden. What makes these particulars very interesting, is, that at this time the place was distinguished by being chosen for the scenes of the celebrated pastoral comedy of the Gentle Shepherd. 'While I passed my infancy at New Hall,' says Mr Tytler in his edition of King James's Poems, 'near Pentland Hills, where the scenes of this pastoral poem were laid, the seat of Mr Forbes, and the resort of many of the literati at that time, I well remember to have heard Ramsay recite, as his own production, different scenes of the Gentle Shepherd, particularly the two first, before it was printed. I believe my
'honourable

keen and piercing, with few of those thick fogs from the E. that are so troublesome and unwholesome on the coast. Of late, however, the winters have been uncommonly mild, but the summers have been cold, short, and unprolific. There is not much rain through the year, but when it does fall it is generally in heavy showers. At 12 noon, 5th September 1788, Fahrenheit's thermometer rose to 73° in the shade, and 80° in the sun at New Hall. In the higher parts of the parish the crops are precarious, and the grass luxuriant, so that it is chiefly adapted for pasture. There are plenty of peat and coal, throughout the whole parish, for fuel. Above Monksburn, where there is a particular kind of freestone resembling petuntse, there is abundance of lime, granite, iron, and freestone intermixed with strata of clay, clay-marl, gravel,

‘honourable friend Sir James Clerk of Pennycuick, where Ramsay frequently resided, and who, I know, is possessed of several original poems composed by him, can give the same testimony.’ The hollow, beyond a place called Mary's Bower, where the Esk forms a line or fall, is named the How Burn; and, with its bathing pool and scenery, coincides exactly with the description of Habbie's How; in all probability a cottager of that name had his hut there at that time. The grounds beyond to the westward called Carlops, a contraction for Carline's Loups, now a part of the same estate, were supposed once to have been the residence of a Carline or witch, who lived in a dell at the foot of the Carlops Hill, where a village is now begun near a pass between two conic rocks: From the opposite points of which she was often observed at nights, by the frightened and disordered eye of superstition and ignorance, leaping and frisking across the entrance. This tradition with the dell or glen, to the N. of the supposed witch's hut, coincides with, and probably gave rise to, another part of the story. From these circumstances, and the manners, employments, and dress, of the old inhabitants, the title of the former proprietor, the shelter given to the Covenanters before the Restoration, the number of glens, streams, rocks, and cascades, together with the verdure and beauty of the neighbouring hills, the reader may easily trace, with few alterations, almost all the incidents and pastoral scenery of that beautiful poem.

vel, and sand; and in the Carlops Hill have been found small quantities of lead and iron ore. Some of the lime-rocks in the upper part of the parish are so hard and entire as to answer the purposes of marble, of which, when polished, they make very beautiful specimens. There are also some strata of rotten whinstone, and such as are sought after for mill-stones. Chalybeate springs are frequent, besides the mineral and petrifying or encrusting springs already mentioned. The streams afford plenty of trout and some eels, and the lake is full of perch and pike. In the channel of Monksburn alone are veins of freestone, mill-stone, coal, clay, sand, four veins of ironstone, two of limestone, gravel, and granite. In a bed of clay, above the undermost lime rock, were found several entire petrified shells, resembling the *mytilus anatinus*; and in a stratum of limestone up the Esk at the How Lin, some pieces of petrified wood with imperfect specimens of the *mya* and *helix* of *Linnaeus*. Several figured stones, such as those described in the account of Blantyre, have presented themselves both in the common freestone and that like petuntse; they are somewhat cylindrical, either with regular rows of equidistant and alternate pits, or with net-work raised like the coat of a melon: The surrounding case of stone is the same in substance, and bears a similar impression reversed. When taken out of this mould many of them resemble in colour, shape, and surface, a piece of dead pine tree after the leaves have dropt. One specimen of freestone, about a foot square, was lately discovered on the banks of the river with irregular net-work, interspersed with round, oblong, and pointed projections, all over one of its sides, on a general view, having the appearance of coarse or blunted representations, in relief, of branches with leaves and fruit upon them. The other side is flat and smooth, and it seems to have made a part of a stratum of freestone. It is about an inch thick; and the

the raised work appears to have been occasioned by the impressions made by some substances above it.

Miscellaneous Observations.—On the N. side of the Linton road, on an eminence between it and the hills about the 10th mile stone from Edinburgh, are the remains of an oval camp 34 by 67 yards within, inclosing a number of tumuli 11 yards each in diameter. It has three entries, one to the W. and one on each side to the N. and S. but none at the end to the E. The N. entrance is 6 and the other two 4 yards each in width. It is encompassed by two ditches, each 4 yards wide, with a mound of 6 yards in breadth between them; and the name it usually gets among the country people is the Castle. There is a similar encampment at the side of the Harkinsburn within the woods of Pennycuick. They are probably of British origin, constructed either for the protection of cattle or for defence in war. In Tweeddale such entrenchments, of which there are several of various dimensions, are known by the appellation of Rings.

From inattention to the unevenness of the surface, the turnpike roads are full of pulls, and are extremely fatiguing and irksome to travellers; the bye roads are also few, and in very bad repair. The great objection to the old roads, are, that they are ill conducted, ill made, and narrow. To every person of sense it must appear obvious, that till a road is rendered easy and accessible, it would be absurd and foolish in the extreme to waste and squander the money of the public on improvements, which would be comparatively of little consequence; the first object, therefore, ought to be to remove the pulls, and flatten the road as much as possible, so as to render travelling easy and expeditious, then to make and keep it in repair, and last of all to make it wide and handsome. When the road is finished across the hills, one of the
most

most delightful short rides in this country will be from Edinburgh to Dalkeith by Inveresk, up the North Esk to the head of this parish, across the Pentland Hills by Bavelaw, and down the Water of Leith; or, for an excursion of some days, from Pennycuik to Lanark by Carnwath, down the Clyde by the new tract to Glasgow, from thence to Stirling by Loch Lomond, and down by the Forth and Hopeton House back to Edinburgh.

The people are of various sizes. They are like those of other parishes, many of them good, and some of them bad. A murmuring discontented spirit, and disposition to censure public measures, both in church and state, too often appears. Formerly, when a person desired a neighbour to do any little favour for him, it was usual to promise him a pint of ale, but now it is, 'I will give a half mutchkin,' meaning *whisky*, a potion destructive to morals and health; for when they engage they often proceed to a much greater length.

Within these twenty years past there has been a very great alteration both in their dress and food. The young people especially are very expensive as to articles of clothes. There is now more flesh meat eat here in one week than was formerly in six months; and tea, that very expensive article, is frequently drunk even amongst the lowest of the people.

N U M B E R X X X I .

P A R I S H O F K I R K C O N N E L * .

(County and Synod of Dumfries.—Presbytery of Penpont.)

By the Reverend Mr JOHN ROBERTSON, Minister.

Origin of the Name.

THIS parish is naturally supposed to derive its name from the first kirk † erected in it, as either built by Ronald Connel, commonly called St Connel, or named in honour of him,

* This Account had the following Introduction prefixed to it; and Mr Robertson having insisted either to have his Account returned, or the following observations printed with it; as the one could not be complied with, it was necessary to obey his injunctions in regard to the other.

I N T R O D U C T I O N .

Pulchrum est benefacere reipublicae; etiam benedicere, haud absurdum est.—SALLUST.

To combine with the pleasure of novelty and variety, the solid satisfaction of authentic information and public utility; to contrive

† In the Teutonic, it is *kirche*; in Dutch, *kerke*; and in Saxon, *kirke*; all evidently from the Greek, *Κύριον Οἶκος*, the house of the Lord. So that the word, *kirk*, is in reality much more legitimate and obvious in its meaning than *church*, which is nothing else but an unnatural and barbarous corruption of the original word *kirk*.

him, whose tomb-stone is said to be lying somewhere on the top of Glenwhurry-hill, a foot or more beneath the surface, and

contrive the best, but hitherto unsuggested, at least unattempted, method of acquiring a full and accurate knowledge of the internal state of this country; and thereby to wake the dormant principles, and direct the benign operations of philanthropy and genuine patriotism, is a circumstance that does infinite credit to the character of that author, who first set on foot, and has taken on himself, the trouble of publishing these Statistical Investigations.—Consonant to this singular felicity of contrivance, and excellence of design, are the ardour, and assiduity, exerted in conducting the execution, and hastening on the completion of the plan proposed.

As congenial to minds of this amiable and beneficent disposition, the Clergy of Scotland must enjoy a proportionate degree of pleasure, the more they have it in their power, to assist in carrying on so arduous and laudable an undertaking. Upon the same principle, where materials of instructive and entertaining information are wanting, or few, or of small importance; by the rule of contraries, we cannot but feel a similar proportion of painful mortification. To this may be added, that, to an essayist, in history or topography, the influence of this kind of penury is equally inauspicious and depressing, as that of the pecuniary sort in common life; of which, to this purpose, PLAUTUS, I think, somewhere says:

In extrema inopia constitutis, haud facile est emergere:

Which sentence the Satyrist has turned into the following hexameter:

*Haud facile emergunt, quorum virtutibus obstat
Res angusta domi.*—JUVENAL.

Where poverty spreads out her night,
How hard 's th' attempt to rise to light!
How can the mind exert her pow'rs,
Where want in chilling horrors lours!

Nor yet is either abundance, or *equality*, to be always expected, in the one case more than in the other. No; far from it. By the uniform and universal destination and arrangement of Providence, there is a wide and evident difference of powers and advantages,

and 3 or 4 miles from the high road.—From the name of this parish, the surname *Kirkconnel* unquestionably originates; which suggests another very probable conclusion, that the chief of that family was, in old times, proprietor of the whole or greatest part of this parish. This supposition is not a little

advantages, both mental and corporeal, among mankind. From this natural and necessary difference arises, and must arise, a correspondent diversity of property, rank, and power, in society. The same thing will result even from the general inequality of situation, soil, and climate. Nor can any one need to be told, how much both the natural and political state of one country, and of one part of the same country, will vary from that of another, nay even from itself, at different periods of time, and in the common course of human affairs.—Hence, too, as to subjects of detail and description, as well as articles of produce, there will always be found an equally remarkable diversity; to which, in both cases, the poet's observation may well enough be supposed very aptly to allude, in this line:

Nei vero terrae ferre omnes omnia possunt.——VIRG.

Not ev'ry soil can ev'ry produce yield,
Nor is each spot we tread, a classic field.

Far less is it to be thought, that the remote, wild, mountainous parts of a northern country, such as Scotland, can furnish much to employ the pencil of the artist, or enrich the page of history. Such is the unfavourable situation of the present writer. The field, within his province, lies much retired from public life; was formerly almost inaccessible, and very little meliorated by culture and improvement; and contains few scenes or objects, few monuments of facts or events, any way striking or interesting, either for landscape painting, or entertaining narrative.—Thus circumstanced, he cannot but feel and regret the disadvantage of such a situation. Yet, loth to decline the task which falls to his share, he readily recurs to the old approved maxim, in the words of the poet:

Ut desint vires, tamen est laudanda voluntas.——OVID.

With each defect, *the will* acceptance claims;
Which candour gives, when peevish humour blames.

little confirmed by the consideration, that there are lands, in different parishes of this shire and its vicinity, named *Kirkconnel*, doubtless from the same family. Of the lands thus named, the most considerable is, the estate of Kirkconnel, in the parish of Troqueer, and stewardry of Galloway. The proprieror of this estate was formerly Kirkconnel of that ilk; but afterwards Maxwell of Kirkconnel, in consequence of a marriage, between the heiress and a gentleman who was a branch of the Nithsdale family*.

Form, Extent, Surface, Hills, &c.—The form of the parish is pretty regular: Its breadth, along the great road from west to east, is between 7 and 8 miles; and its length, from north to south, between 10 and 14 miles. Almost parallel with the high road, and 3 or 4 miles from it, on the north side, there is a continued range of hills irregularly formed, and of considerable height, which run the whole length of the parish, from east to west; where they are connected with *Corseacone*, in the parish of New Cumnock, a higher hill than any of them, which terminates the range on that side. These hills are mostly green; and on the north side extend into high, cold, swampy ground, or a continuation of irregular hills, covered with grass and heath, and interspersed with narrow valleys, deep glens, and winding rivulets. From the base of the above range, on the south side, there is an extensive and pretty gradual declivity, in some places interrupted with large flats and deep hollows, and stretching down to the

* The writer of this article has only to add, that the small trouble of this investigation is sufficiently repaid, by the pleasure of discovering, on such easy and evident principles, an ancient relation between a favourite parish and a very respectable family; especially the present representative of it, whose amiable character and accomplishments would reflect honour upon any parish, or any country.

the river Nith, a little below the high way. On the other side of this river, the ground rises to a still greater height, and a much wider extent, towards another range of far more distant hills, the tops of which form the termination of the prospect on the south.

Climate, Soil, Cultivation, Cattle, and Produce.—From the elevated situation of the parish, and the number and height of its hills, the air is naturally moist and cold; sometimes frosty early in harvest, and late in the spring; yet generally pure, owing to the declivity of the ground, the rapidity of the rivers and brooks, and the frequency of fresh breezes and high winds. As in other parts of the country, the soil here is much diversified; consisting of light gravelly mould, loam, clay, moss, and a mixture of moss and clay; and in general it is cold, marshy, and deep. There are above 600 acres in tillage. Light land is tilled with the English plough drawn by two horses, and deep land with the Scottish plough drawn by four horses. The mossy land requires to be very early ploughed. Seed time begins about the end of March, and harvest work in the end of August. Except two or three farms from 40 l. down to 30 l. of rent, and the like number of still smaller value, there are none entirely corn farms in the parish; the rest being stocked with sheep, and all of them with a proportion of black cattle. The number of the former will be about 13000; and of the latter above 700, old and young. The best sort of sheep weigh from 50 to 60 lib. and the smaller kind from 38 to 45 lib. or more. The rate of *laying*, or smearing them, is, 6 lib. of butter with 3 Scotch pints of tar for each score, which yield annually between 50 and 60 lib. of wool. The best kind of wool is sold for 8s. *per* stone, and the inferior sort for 5 s. or upwards, to 6 s. 6 d. The grain and roots, chiefly cultivated here, are
oats,

oats, bear, and potatoes, with a small quantity of pease, rye-grass, clover, and flax. Seldom, however, do the crops; though apparently strong and heavy, come to perfection; owing to the high winds, frosts, and mildews, to which this parish is very much subject. The unconfined wandering of sheep, and other cattle, in the winter time, is a strong check to the sowing of much rye-grass and clover. Nor is the cultivation of lint less discouraged, by the careless or dishonest management of it at the lint-mill; the quantity returned usually bearing so small a proportion to what has been sent thither, as to exceed all belief, and in some instances to be perfectly shameful, and to carry the appearance of jest, banter; or insult, as well as of fraud and plunder. This, however, by no means alludes to the lint-mill at *Morton*.

Improvements and Disadvantages.—Within these 20 years, agriculture has been carried on here to a much greater extent than formerly, by means of lime brought from a quarry, belonging to the Earl of Dumfries, about 5 miles from the center of this parish. At present, however, it seems to be much on the decline. For most of the land capable of improvement has been limed, and will not so well admit of a repeated operation in that way, except where the soil is dry, and after a crop of turnips or potatoes. The struggle, too, with an unfriendly climate still subsists; though no doubt it might be greatly diminished by means of ditches, quick-set hedges, and broad belts of planted wood, at convenient distances, and in a proper direction; as it is usually observed that, under this kind of shelter, even the frost makes no impression, when, in exposed situations, juicy plants are quite blasted all around. Yet, effectual and valuable as this species of improvement would certainly be found, it is more than can be expected from tenants, whose leases extend no farther than 19 years; without

without an adequate allowance for the labour and expence, with which it would be attended. But the greatest discouragement of all is, the exorbitant advance upon the price of labour, particularly servants wages, which in general are now tripled, beyond what they were within the above period: Especially, as this is connected with a nearly similar rise in the price of horses, husbandry utensils, artificers work, and wearing apparel; to say nothing of imposts for revenue and roads, the rise of rents, and the expensive difference in the present stile of living *.

Minerals.

* All this must bear very hard upon the corn-farmer, and at last quite overpower all his efforts in the unequal conflict; considering too that the price of grain is at this day much the same that it was 20 or 30 years ago. Thus circumstanced, how can he but sink down under the incumbent weight of such a combination of discouragement from every quarter? And if he fall, how can the landed proprietor stand, or the necessitous poor live? For, supposing matters to go on in this train, the consequence is obvious: Agriculture must fall into decay, how far no one can tell; the country will turn wild and barren, will be desolated and depopulated; grain become scarce, and rise in price beyond the reach of those who cannot work, or are not employed; and the kingdom at large be reduced to want and distress. What else is to be expected, when the very money, paid by the farmer and others, for statute labour and at toll-bars, is employed against him to augment his hardships, by being lavishly held out in tempting offers to his servants and labourers, to entice them from his work, and induce them to go to the making and repairing of the great roads; especially, when the mineries, founderies, and the like great works, above all the cotton manufactures, all around, particularly in the west, have swept the country quite bare of hands, and seem as if they could still keep it in the same situation? For not only servants and labourers, but likewise mechanics, of all sorts, are now relinquishing their respective occupations, and betaking themselves to different departments in the cotton manufacture, or are employed in hawking, or otherwise extending, the sale of its various articles all over the country. This general desertion of other employments, in favour of a particular branch of business, is so remarkable, and so very singular, that it may well be questioned,

Minerals.—It is said, that there are symptoms of lead in Glenwhurry Cleugh, Bankhead-hill, and the other hills towards

tioned, whether in any age or nation there has ever before occurred any thing like it. It is true, indeed, every kind of manufacture is in so far valuable, as it contributes to the extension of commerce, produces the conveniences of life, furnishes employment to the labouring poor, and bids fair to be permanent; but it is rather unfortunate, when one sort happens to interfere with the interest of another; still more, when it detaches the public attention from others of equal or greater importance to the community, or proves a wasting drain to that proportion of manual labour, which is necessary to the very existence of those of a more interesting nature; such as, in the present case, agriculture, and the woollen manufacture, of all others the most important to this country. The superior importance of agriculture is obvious at first view. It produces a very great addition to the beauty and value of the country; rears a healthy race of men for its defence; secures plenty of provisions for its inhabitants; and prevents all that anxiety, distress, and calamity, that usually attend too much dependence on a foreign market. This last mentioned circumstance claims the most serious consideration, as nothing can be more vain than to amuse us with false comfort, by turning our attention to other countries for relief, in case of need, such as the present state of agriculture in Scotland seems too strongly to presage; because nothing can be more precarious, delusive, and dangerous to any people, especially in an insular situation, than such dependence.

Next to agriculture, the *woollen manufacture* justly demands a place, in the scale of national importance. Without wading into the depths of commercial and political discussion on the subject, or even noticing that partiality in favour of any staple commodity of our own country, which is so natural and allowable in itself, and due from every Briton; it is enough to observe, that wool, the produce of the very spot where we live, is not liable to any of those disastrous or adverse accidents, which are so much connected with the importation of foreign materials, especially, at a great distance; and which may plunge the principal adventurer in disappointment and distress, and leave the operative manufacturer entirely idle, at a time too, when his need may be greatest, and he utterly unable to turn himself to any other employment. Nor is wool less beneficial to the weaver, than safe and encouraging to the manufacturer. Founded in nature, the celebrated old chemist's opinion will always be confirmed

wards Crawick; and limestone in Fingland, and one continued mass of lime rock in the Glenmucleugh Hills, and in Glenwhurry

confirmed by experience, especially in northern climates, that wool, an animal production, is much more congenial and suitable to the human frame, than any vegetable material whatever, for the purpose of cloathing. For, in fact, it is much warmer and more substantial, than any of the usual exotic articles of apparel; and therefore much better adapted to promote perspiration, and prevent those sudden obstructions of it, from which proceed most of the maladies with which mankind are so much afflicted. In short, woollen cloth is the only proper wear for this cold climate; especially, to those who are employed in the labours of the field, or are any way exposed to the vicissitudes of the weather; at the same time that it is always at hand, more easily purchased, and in many respects far less expensive, than those manifold variegated shreds of soppish finery that are just now, every where, so much in vogue.

Hence it would seem not unnatural to suppose, that to the modern passion for this light flimsy, airy dress, so prevalent among all ranks, so unsuitable to the constitutions of all, and to the occupations and the funds of most, particularly of the poorer sort, may be ascribed no small share of the equally common prevalence of colds, fevers, rheumatisms, asthmas, consumptions, and perhaps too much of what is the worst disease of all, the *amor sceleratus habendi*. This, too, is not a little stimulated by the usual attendant of gaudy attire, a violent predilection for expensive amusements, and the various haunts of levity, dissipation, and prodigality. To the rich themselves, habits of this sort are sufficiently pernicious; but to the inferior ranks of life they are big with mischief and ruin. For these habits enfeeble their powers, engross their attention, unfit them for the duties of their station, impair or extinguish the influence of those principles and qualities, that are necessary to conciliate favour, esteem, and confidence, in any department of business, and destroy the means of supplying, not merely the fantastical wants of their own creating, but even those that are much more natural, unavoidable, and interesting.

To apply these remarks to the subject, from which we have a little digressed, in proportion as a taste for finery and profusion predominates, among those employed in service or rural labour, it must operate more than they may be aware, both to their own detriment, and that of society; particularly, as it tends to

Glenwhurry Hill, into the Cleugh, and round towards Penbreck; whence it would seem, that the spar found in this
Cleugh

render them less attentive, obliging, and useful; to deter them from marriage, by wasting those funds, that might be a considerable aid in maintaining a family, when they should be married; to deprive them of an independent resource, in case of any unfortunate accident, or in the time of sickness, or under the frailties of old age; and to put it out of their power to exert and gratify some of the best principles, and feelings of the human heart, by contributing to the relief and support of their aged parents, in similar circumstances of bodily infirmity, disease, and distress; in short, as it tends to annihilate all the advantages resulting from the raised price of their service and labour. That this is too often realised, needs rather to be regretted than proved; especially, in the case of females of the above denomination; in so much, that the cotton and silk manufacturers, and the vendors of their goods, are generally supposed to be the only gainers, by the present high advance of wages. No matter, the illusion goes on; the woollen manufacture is almost annihilated; the farmer suffers, agriculture declines apace, some have reduced their tillage to one half, others to a third of its former extent, and others have given it up altogether. Should this course prevail, the probable consequences, as has been noticed, behove to be fatal to the country, which may God prevent. But in ordinary cases miracles are not to be expected. Means must be used. These need hardly be specified. They will readily occur to those whose province it is to devise, and who have it in their power to administer the relief that is so much wanted. Only, in general, it would certainly be of no small service to the country, were the hint, given about 50 years ago by the amiable and elegant SHENSTONE, properly improved. Strongly impressed with what he then beheld, and presageful, as it would seem, of still worse to come, by the above absurd and ruinous system; his gentle but nobly zealous Muse could not refrain from venting her plaintive patriotic sorrow, in these and the like pathetic strains, which may now too well be resumed with redoubled energy:

Will no bright maid, by worth, by titles known,
Give the rich growth of *British* hills to fame?
And let her charms and her example own,
That virtue's dress, and beauty's are the same?

Will

Cleugh has come from the side opposite to the lime rock.
But none of these mines or rocks have ever been wrought,
or

Will no fam'd chief support this generous maid?
Once more the patriot's arduous path resume?
And, comely from his native plains array'd,
Speak future glory to the BRITISH LOOM?

To what is here suggested, with every advantage of poetical beauty and patriotic ardour, may be added, that every other aid should be given towards the revival of the woollen manufacture in Scotland. With respect to farmers, every tax or public impost, that bears hard upon them, or the labouring poor, should be removed or mitigated. Some method too, that may be judged consistent with equity and humanity, should be adopted, to supply the present scarcity of hands, a much more formidable evil than all the exorbitance of price for rural labour. Informed of our situation, transmarine strangers, many of them sufficiently exceptionable, have flocked hither, professedly in quest of employment, but very little to the advantage of the country. Much better, surely, would it have been, to have employed the military in making the great roads, which has often been done formerly; and to have allowed them proper wages for their work: Or, to have got a competent number of our own sober, temperate, hardy, countrymen from the North; by which means the spirit of emigration, in that quarter, would have been much abated; the business of great works, and every kind of manufacture carried on, without any detrimental interference with each other; and much of the inconvenience, attending the unrestrained influx, and the indiscriminate admission of unknown characters, prevented.

That a measure, so obvious and easy in itself, and so directly tending to public utility, should have been so long and so much overlooked, is truly surprising, and perfectly unaccountable;—I had almost said, *inexcusable*. At last, indeed, there occurred an incident, that served to excite the tender and generous sensibilities of human nature, into a powerful co-operation with the maxims of propriety, expediency, and sound policy, in favour of that part of the scheme just now suggested, which relates to our fellow citizens, the Highlanders. It was when a considerable body of that very valuable people were crowding to the Western shore, in order to emigrate to the other side of the Atlantic,

or properly investigated. From Crawick along the run of the river Nith, till near the west march, lies the most valuable part of the coal in this part of the country. Its bed is between 2 and 3 miles broad, and consists of several seams, some of them very deep. One of these, at the Cairnburn, is the only place in this quarter, that furnishes that sort of coal which is used in working iron. It is carried in carts for that purpose, to the distance of 30 or 40 miles, in different directions. In several places, the coal is covered with blue free rock, very fine and hard, that will cut to any size or thickness, and receive a polish not so glossy, but almost as smooth as marble.

Mineral

lantic, in pursuit of that encouragement, which, because unnotified to them, they imagined was not to be found in their own country. From whatever cause, their situation at this time happened to be such, as to attract more than usual attention and compassion. Among those who beheld or heard of this moving scene, an eminent manufacturer, much to his honour, exerted and distinguished himself. This was MR DAVID DALE of Glasgow, said to be no less remarkable for his public and private virtues, than for enterprise and success in the line of his business, who took these poor intending emigrants under his care, and employed them in his works. On this occasion, too, a SOCIETY was instituted in Glasgow, for PREVENTING EMIGRATION. So striking an instance of judicious patriotic humanity, could hardly fail to be the subject of the warmest encomiums; but seems to have been too little regarded and improved, as an example for imitation; as no material alteration for the better has followed, with respect to the number of useful hands, in most of the southern parts of the kingdom. To promote more effectually the beneficial purposes of the institution just now mentioned, or of others similar to it, would it not be proper, among other things, to publish in the newspapers, or transmit to every parish, a copy of the plan and regulations adopted?

————— *Si quid novisti rectius istis,
Candidus imperti; si non, his utere mecum.*

HOK.

Mineral Waters.—The most remarkable mineral springs here are, one on the top of the *Rig-hill*, and another at the *Rig-burn*. The first is not wide, but very deep, and of the same quality as the Merkland Spaw in Galloway; and has been used with much advantage for stomachic complaints. The other, called *Rig-burn Spaw*, is well known. By a chemical analysis, it has been ascertained to be the same in quality with the *Hart-field* spring, near Moffat, but almost twice as strong. It has been found very powerful in scorbutic cases, and very beneficial in some stomachic ailments. Certain it is, it exhilarates the spirits, gives an edge to the appetite, and promotes digestion. It is collected into two large stone cisterns; the one nearest the fountain is covered with an arched roof, and kept locked; the other is likewise covered with strong stone flags, and open at the under end, where any that come may be served. This was done about 8 or 9 years ago, at the expence of the principal people in this neighbourhood. Nothing is charged for the water, which has been sent for, from very distant parts of the country, even from Edinburgh and Glasgow; but it is used with most advantage on the spot*.

Population.

* A singular proof of this, and of the efficacy of the waters as an antiscorbutic, occurred several years ago in the case of an Englishman, who had been dismissed from Carlisle infirmary, as incurable. He came in the winter time, was very poor, depended chiefly on the humanity of the people around, and was but indifferently accommodated, considering what his case required. For, to say nothing of other effects of the scorbutic habit he laboured under, he was quite emaciated, bowed down, feeble, and dispirited. But after the regular use of this water, taken from the spring twice or thrice a day, he gradually recruited, till in about 8 weeks time he became quite well, and went away stout, lively, and joyous, because of his unexpected and remarkable recovery.

Population.—Whether the inhabitants of this parish were formerly (perhaps 90 or 100 years ago) more numerous, than at present, cannot now be well ascertained *; though the affirmative may fairly enough be presumed, from the general annexation of 2, 3, or 4, farms into one, and the number of *ley farms*, as they are called, because let to people living at a distance, or not within the parish. Of these there are 9 or 10; four of which are rented by extra parishioners. Nor can it but be doubtful, whether the presumeable decrease of population, occasioned by these means, will be made up by the accession of the new large village below the church, and 2 or 3 smaller ones near the river *Crawick*. Be that as it will, the present amount is near 800 examinable persons, and the number of souls in the parish about

number of souls in the parish about	-	-	1000
The return to Dr Webster in 1755 was only	-	-	899
Increase within these 40 years	-	-	101

Language.—That the Gaelic, or Earse, has in antient times been the prevailing language of this part of the country, may fairly enough be concluded from the names of different lands in the parish; such as *Crockray*, *Knockenjig*, *Knockenstab*,

* Baptisms are inserted in the parish register, but neither marriages nor deaths. Nor can even the insertion of baptisms be traced farther back than the year 1742. To form a general calculation, it may be observed, that about 20 years ago the average number of baptisms, for 3 years, was near 13 each year; and that the same average, for the last 3 years, was about 18. The children of dissenters are not included, as the parents decline taking the benefit of the register for that purpose, either to avoid paying the usual small perquisite to the clerk, or, as is supposed by most people, because it is a part of their political etiquette, to express in this way their dread of contagion or contamination, from even a parochial record. Whether they keep a register of their own, or not, is more than can at present be ascertained.

Knschenstab, Cares, &c. How long it is ago, since it ceased to be vernacular, cannot be ascertained; only, the English language is now spoken here, as in the rest of Nithsdale, with considerable purity, excepting chiefly a few old Scotch, or rather obsolete Saxon words, that now and then occur; and in a plain, easy, manly stile of pronunciation, without any of those grating peculiarities of provincial accent, that mark the dialect of some of the adjoining counties. With the small exception, of one from England, and another from Ireland, the inhabitants are all natives of Scotland.

Diseases, &c.—Enjoying the advantage of an open situation, particularly a long and wide extended strath, which forms the principal part of the parish, added to other circumstances formerly mentioned, tending to render the air pure and salubrious; the people here are in general stout and healthy, and usually free from epidemical distempers. Even when those have been raging in the contiguous parts of the neighbouring parishes, *here* they have scarcely or not at all appeared; at least, if they did, it was mostly in a milder form, except in low confined places where the houses were damp and ill aired, and accommodation in other respects perhaps rather unfavourable for the patients. For the same reason, in part, it is to be feared, that the great increase of the village, below the church, will be attended with a very material change, as to salubrity, in that quarter of the parish; as the site of it is low, flat, miry, and partly subject to a land flood after heavy rains, especially in the months of autumn and winter. The diseases most common in this parish, are, the rheumatism, asthma, and consumption, in adults; and the teething fever, the croup, chincough, and small-pox, in children. Of these in children the first three, perhaps too the last, are greatly mitigated, or prevented, by the early

ly and constant use of the Burgundy pitch plaster, applied between the blades of the shoulders; and the danger of the last is effectually obviated by inoculation, to which the most scrupulous and prejudiced are now almost universally reconciled. Only, in some cases, its design has been defeated, and its credit much injured, either by injudicious practice, when the patient has been afflicted with some other acute disorder; or by the discontinuance of proper attention and medicines, when the disease has been supposed at an end, but its malignant remains of reformed virulent matter, still latent in the blood, have again broke out in some other form, more hostile to the constitution, and fatal in the issue.—As to other particulars, the generality of the people here are in stature from 5 feet 8 inches to 6 feet, or more; and live to the age of between 60 and 90 years, and some of them longer.

Employments.—From the account already given, it will easily be understood, that the people of this parish are mostly farmers; consequently they are generally employed in agriculture and the breeding and management of sheep and black cattle. Hence their servants and horses are chiefly intended for, and constantly occupied in, work relating to these various particulars. So that household servants and saddle horses must in this case be much out of the question; especially as the united property of the residing heritors (5 or 6 in number) would perhaps be too high rated at 130*l. per annum*, and there are only 4 or 5 tenants, each of whom pays above 70*l.* of yearly rent. Here the rule of judgment, one would think, is short and simple; and yet the report, given in by the tax surveyor, has for several years past been very *erroneous*, if we are to judge by its *consequences*. When a little *capricious despot* of this kind has fixed the stamp of exaction, upon those ranks of society whom the law exempts, he may, if he pleases,

es, boast of his wonderful services, and plume and blefs himself upon his own vast official importance; but he must be pronounced an unfeeling plunderer, and a real enemy to the king, to the constitution, to the country, and to mankind. Nor can it but be regretted, that the present established mode of obtaining redrets or relief, in such cases, is too troublesome and expensive; especially to country people living at a great distance from those courts of justice, to which appeals and complaints on points of this sort are competent. Besides servants hired for the year or half year, there are other hands employed in the work of hay and harvest, either by the day or by the piece, *i. e.* till the particular work of each of these seasons is concluded. About 20 years ago, the wages of men servants were from 2 l. 10 s. to 3 l. 10 s. *per annum*; and of women, from 1 l. 10 s. to 2 l. But at present the former are from 7 l. 10 s. to 10 l. and the latter from 3 l. to 5 l. The other classes of the inhabitants are :

Merchants	-	4	Shoemakers	-	3
Licenced sellers of ale and spirits	-	8	Joiner	-	1
Bakers	-	2	Wrights and masons in cottage building, &c.		4
Miller	-	1	Blacksmiths	-	6
Weavers	-	28	Colliers	-	16
Dyer and clothier	-	1	Carters	-	6
Tailors	-	7			

There is no doctor, writer, nor excise officer, in this parish: Only, some persons of these denominations, from the neighbouring districts, now and then make occasional visits to this quarter. Nor are there wanting those who are disposed to say, ‘the more vacancy, and the fewer visits in any of these ways, so much the better.’ How? Why? ‘Because,’ con-

tinue they, ‘the fewer deaths, the fewer law-suits, the fewer
 ‘ scenes resembling reynard in the roosts, and the less harm
 ‘ to poor cottage-dealers in small goods, (which, for the
 ‘ want of some legal punctilio, may be attached with forfei-
 ‘ ture and penalties, when the indigent vender and his fami-
 ‘ ly have more need to be relieved than rifled,) so much the
 ‘ better.’ To this kind of raillery, gentlemen of the above
 descriptions can no doubt easily oppose as much argument
 and fact, as will sufficiently serve to assert their own respec-
 tive professional or official importance, probity, and honour.
 Leaving this to those of the two last denominations, at pre-
 sent, and to others, to be as ludicrous, or even severe, as they
 please, with illiterate pretenders to medical science; still, lay-
 ing aside wanton, unfair ridicule, one may be allowed to say,
 that the want of a thorough bred skilful practitioner in me-
 dicine is certainly a very material disadvantage to any part of
 the country. For this reason, it is much to be wished, that
 there were a fixed salary for one properly qualified, in every
 district, of an extent proportioned to its situation, as salu-
 brious or the contrary, to the number of its inhabitants,
 and the nature of their employments; at least, in those parts
 which lie at any considerable distance from towns or large
 villages.

Manufactures.—On the verge of the parish, near Sanquhar, there is an iron-plating forge, erected a good many years ago. Its great hammer, (head and haft,) weighs 6 cwt. and strikes 170 times, or more, in a minute, by means of a wheel 14 feet in diameter, that goes by water. This work belongs to a respectable substantial Company, and the business of it is carried on to a pretty considerable extent. Nor indeed can this, or any other manufacture, easily fail of success, in a situation so very favourable, as far as plenty of water,

ter, coal, peat, and comparative cheapness of provisions, are concerned. Added to these advantages, abundance of wool on the spot and over the whole neighbourhood, must render a woollen manufacture in this place a most eligible scheme of business; yet, till within these few years, the people here seem not to have sufficiently understood, or attended to the importance of those local circumstances, which were capable of being so much improved, to the advancement of their own interest. During the time excepted, both carpets and plain woollen cloth have been manufactured by different hands, in the principal village and its vicinity. Much more might, and no doubt would, have been done, had any aid been granted from the public funds, said to be intended for the encouragement of such undertakings. At present, notwithstanding, the carpet branch appears to be a little upon the increase. But the greatest number of hands have, for some time past, been employed in weaving muslin for the cotton manufacturers in Ayrshire.—It is in agitation to establish an woollen manufacture on a pretty large scale; aided by a full set of carding and spinning machinery, to be erected for that purpose*.

Farmer Society.—Impressed with the increasing discouragements attending agriculture, and the want of system in the management of rural business; to obviate or remedy these disadvantages, as far as might be in their power, the leading people of the parish did, about three years ago, constitute themselves into a Farmer Society. Among the first things they

* Since writing the above, the scheme is fixed, and in a train for being put in immediate execution, under the patronage of JOHN M. MURDO, Esq; who is always ready to take a warm and active interest in every measure tending to the advantage and prosperity of the country.

they did, was to establish a market, to be always held at Kirkconnel village, twice in the year, viz. on the 1st Tuesday of May, and on the 1st Tuesday of November, for the hiring of servants, and the sale of cattle, and of woollen yarn and cloth. Aware that, in every promiscuous concourse of this kind, there may be some people too much disposed to create disturbance, especially when, in a place like this, there is no magistracy near at hand to keep them in awe; the Society have taken proper measures for preserving peace and good order during the time of the market. To prevent mistakes in buying and selling, and to facilitate the progress of business in this way, the Winchester bushel is fixed upon as the standard measure for grain, and the rate of markets is to be duly notified to the clerk, from time to time, in order to be communicated. Such too as want either to buy or sell any article, or to hire servants, or to be hired, are to apply to him for information, either way, relating to the persons with whom they may transact. All these matters are to be inserted in a journal kept for the purpose. By means of this plan, all the commerce of the parish is brought into an easy compass, or rather concentrated in one point. Suppose the same thing to be done in every parish, and a communication established with any central town or considerable village; especially suppose this plan improved to all the extent of which it is capable; the utility of such a measure can need no illustration. To prevent strife, animosity, and law-suits, the bane and scourge of any society or country, every dispute or difference, that shall happen to arise between any of the members of this society, relative to claims, bargains, injuries, or offences, is to be submitted to the determination of three neutral persons of their own number, selected by the preses, and approved by the parties; and their judgment is to be final.

Heritors

Heritors and Rent.—Except what was before supposed to be worth about 130 l. *per annum*, the whole parish belongs to the Duke of QUEENSBERRY. The excepted part is divided among 5 or 6 heritors, who usually reside in the parish. One of these portions is so small as not to exceed a single acre in extent *.

The Duke's property is occupied, at least rented, by 23 tenants, who pay from 160 l. down to 30 l. each, of yearly rent; besides several smaller farms, of a rent proportionable. In short, the whole rents of the parish would, it is supposed, amount to upwards of 2000 l. were entry money out of the question.

Ecclesiastical State †.—Of this, as of all the other parishes in this presbytery, excepting one, the Duke of Queensberry is

* For this there is a charter, (evidently a whimsical thing at first), as far back as the year 1444, the *reddendum* of which, 'unus solidus monetæ regni Scotiæ', is to be paid '*ministro ministranti ad altare beatae virginis*', and afterwards, by the precept of *clare constat*, from Lord WILLIAM CRICHTON of Sanquhar, to the minister of the parish and his successors in office.

† Anterior to the year 1732, Mr JOHN CARMICHAEL was the last Presbyterian minister of this parish, who was turned out of his charge in 1662, when Episcopacy was violently obtruded upon this kingdom. In the year 1681, Mr SAMUEL MOAT, the Episcopal incumbent, was likewise obliged to leave his charge; because he could not take the oath required by the test act. From that period, the vacancy was protracted, to the year 1732; when Mr PETER RAE, then minister of Kirkbride, was admitted minister of Kirkconnel. Like the old celebrated *Joannes de Sacro Bosco*, or JOHN of HOLYWOOD, in his day, supposed, by his name, to have been also of this country, Mr Rae was an eminent philosopher and astronomer, as well as a divine; but much more learned and enlightened than the other. His astronomical chime clock, still in Drumlanrig castle, made and constructed in all its parts with his own hand, is a continued striking proof both of his mechanical powers, and of the extent

is patron. The church, manse, and offices, have been repaired, but not rebuilt since the year 1729; and, except the want of some small repairs, are in pretty good condition. By a decret in 1655, the stipend was modified to 43 l. 18s. 10d. with 3 chalders of victual, 2 of corn, and 1 of bear; by a new decret in 1763, it was augmented to 69 l. 8s. 10 $\frac{8}{12}$ d. and no victual; and, by a late decret, it is now 71 l. 13s. 4d. with 4 chalders of victual, one half bear, and the other half oat-meal. The only dissenters here are Presbyterians, under the different denominations of Cameronians, Burghers, and Antiburghers. Of the first class, there are 3 or 4; of the second, 1 or 2; and of the last, between 20 and 30; whose meeting-house is at Sanquhar, within a mile of the march between the two parishes. These separate themselves from the establishment, and from one another, on account of matters merely political, or such mistakes and inconveniencies attending judicial proceedings, as may be expected, so long as men are not infallible, or connected here below with the church militant; but which are no part of our religion, because no part of this church's terms of communion. Of course, division must, in this case, one would think, be rather unnecessary, unreasonable, and unwarrantable from scripture. More aware of this, and more impressed with it, than formerly, as would seem, (now that the dust and heat of controversy have much subsided and abated,) the generality of people are more inclined to judge and speak of these points with

of his philosophical knowledge. But as the description of this falls to the share of another, it is here purposely omitted. Besides a small tract or two, in divinity, he published a *history of the rebellion in the year 1715*, executed with much minuteness and fidelity, and containing a good deal of curious information. To him succeeded Mr ROBERT HUNTER, his son-in-law. In April 1770, the present incumbent, Mr JOHN ROBERTSON, was ordained assistant and successor to the said Mr Hunter; and at his death, in May following, succeeded to the full charge.

with coolness, candour, and moderation ; less prone to give implicit credit, to those who would press every thing into the service of their own views and designs ; less ready to be misled by confident pretences, or false exaggerated representations ; and less disposed to relish those effusions of spleen and rancour, which formerly polluted the field of religious debate, and are always the sure proof of a weak argument, the forlorn refuge of a bad cause, and the disgrace of a good one ; in short, no longer the dupes of that captious selfish spirit of contention, which takes every thing by the wrong handle, views every object in the worst light, and disturbs the peace of society ; the good people here lose all sight of little party distinctions, make proper allowances for each others peculiarities of sentiment on all hands, and live together in that stile of easy, harmonious, and friendly intercourse, which is so amiable in itself, useful and comfortable in social life, and ornamental to the faith which they in common avow.

School.—The school is taught by an old man, who has had it these 30 years under his care. His salary is only 100 merks, with a gratuity of 1 l. Sterling, from the Duke of Queensberry, and 10 s. for which he is to teach a poor orphan or two, when any happen to be in the parish, in consequence of a mortification to that effect by the late minister, Mr Hunter.

Poor.—There have for many years past been above 20 persons on the poors roll, including dissenters as well as others ; but of late their number is a little reduced. The only parochial provision for them consists of the weekly collections, and 6 l. 6 s. 8 d. yearly from the Duke of Queensberry ; with now and then a small legacy from some of the substantial parishioners, and the interest of what has from time to time

time been saved from these charities. Relative to the question, whether the poor here receive any supply from the public collections made by dissenters, extended even to the case of those of their own community, for any thing understood by this kirk session, much cannot be affirmed; but, confined to those of the establishment, all that can be said is, if they do receive any thing from such collections, in this parish, it is either so secretly as not to be known, or so seldom as not to deserve any particular notice.

Roads.—Besides the old great road, from Sanquhar to Cumnock, a part of that long track of road, made solely at the expence of the late amiable, revered, and munificent Duke of QUEENSBERRY; there is a side road from it to the Earl of Dumfries's lime quarry, and one up the holm of Crawick river, towards Crawfordjohn. Just now, too, the great turnpike road, on the line between Carlisle and Glasgow, is nearly completed. It runs along the face of the hills on the north side of this parish, and through the wildest and highest part of it. This circumstance will, it is thought, render travelling precarious and difficult, sometimes impracticable, in the winter season, when, after a deep fall of snow, it is often found nearly impossible to remove the sheep in that quarter to lower ground for relief. On the old great road, there is a toll-bar lately erected. Of this the near neighbours complain much, because it is a heavy cefs upon them, though a small impost to strangers or occasional travellers; not to add, that they pay a large yearly assessment for the statute labour.

Rivers and Bridges.—The parish abounds in rivers, brooks, and springs. Besides the river *Nith*, which runs through the middle of it, from west to nearly south-east, and the smaller
rivers

rivers *Crawick* and *Killow*, on the march with *Sanquhar*; it contains several *burns*, or brooks, that run into these, and a good many more which cross the high road, or come down from the hills on the other side into the Nith. This last has a good stone bridge over it, a short way above the church; a little below which, there is another over the rivulet called *Polburn*. The only other stone bridge worth notice, is one over the *Crawick*, at the march between this parish and *Sanquhar*, said to have been built *anno* 1706, by James Duke of Queensberry.

Antiquities and Curiosities.—Of these, very little or nothing occurs, that merits attention, except a few font-stones, and a grave-stone, said to be on the top of *Glenwhurry-hill*. It is overgrown with grass, and sunk a foot or more below the surface, near a little cairn, or heap of small stones; and, as the tradition adds, has this inscription upon it, ‘Here lies ST. CONNEL, who built Kirkbride and Kirkconnel’. There are still many cairns in the parish, with vestiges and traditions of many more formerly. Some of them contain a great quantity of human bones, that are often and easily discovered. Among several romantic spots that might be mentioned, there is one that claims particular notice. It is a natural cascade, in the river *Crawick*, about half a mile above the bridge, where the water tumbles and dashes from rock to rock with tremendous noise, especially when the river is any way swelled; then rises in boiling eddies and foaming surges; and at last rolls on in a bold majestic torrent, amidst as fine a piece of grotto scenery as can well be imagined.

Character.—As to the character and morals of the people; they are acute, deliberate, cool, steady, serious, and well acquainted with the principles of Christianity. With them it is

no new thing to combine, with these principles and the offices of religion, the dispositions of dutiful subjects, the habits of good citizens, and the virtues of private life. To a good degree of industry they add contentment, cheerfulness, candour, good nature, and a quiet peaceable behaviour. Though strangers to finical refinement, or even to much of urbanic polish, they are open, honest, and obliging; kind, friendly, humane, and hospitable. In their stile of living, they are decent, sober, and temperate; and, in adversity or distress, sedate, patient, and resigned. Not but that, here, as in other places, there are too many exceptions, in whole or in part; only, it may be affirmed, that these are, perhaps, as few as in any other parish of the same number of inhabitants and villages. As so much general evidence of this, a few facts may be mentioned.

What first occurs, and claims no small degree of commendation, is, that in these giddy, gloomy, turbulent times, this people have hitherto remained untainted by the contagion of that most empty but fallacious and pestilential thing, which, under various forms and names, particularly, the specious name of *philosophy*, has long infested the church, and now threatens confusion, anarchy, and desolation to the state and to the country. To guard them against its poison and deceit, though conveyed with the utmost art and industry, no particular exertions were needful; satisfied on the best grounds, that their religion is divine;—that its peculiar, as well as general principles, perfectly accord with the dictates of right reason, and are the only springs of true comfort and a just respect to the laws of heaven;—that these laws clearly exhibit all the regards we owe, all the obligations we are under, to one another, as superiors, inferiors, and equals; particularly to kings, and others in authority;—that the constitution we now enjoy, is the best human security for the continued

tinued preservation of both our civil and religious rights and liberties ;—that, as our religion and government thus mutually support each other, whatever would unhinge the one, must unhinge and endanger the other, or rather, both together ;—and that apparent or temporary imperfections and inconveniencies cannot excuse or extenuate the guilt of what in this case would be doubly criminal ; any thing like *rebellion* or *sedition*.—Satisfied of all this, the people here require very little argument to impress them with just contempt and detestation of that *new light*, absurdly enough so called, which is nothing else but the *ignis fatuus* of old exploded error, brought up from its dark caverns, and set off with some new airs of flight of hand parade ; or of *that philosophy*, whose *freedom of thought*, *liberality of sentiment*, and *right of private judgment*, are chiefly employed in opposing or depreciating the truth, the wisdom, and the laws of heaven, and in reviling and speaking evil of dignities and rulers on earth ; *that philosophy*, which *materializes* men into brutes, nay, monsters, raging for rapine, blood, and murder.

Another thing deserving notice, as illustrative of this people's character, is, that their charities, both in public and private, have hitherto been so liberal, as to supersede the necessity of having recourse to any assessment for the maintenance of the poor *. With the same view to this, there needs only to be added, what implies much in favour of their general character, that, within the memory of man, none of them has ever suffered a capital punishment, or received any public stigma from the hands of justice. Uniting this, with the first mentioned of these leading facts, we are naturally led

* Nay, though, during more than 20 years past, the annual and occasional distributions have been double of what they were formerly, the present amount of the poor's funds is more than treble of what it was prior to that period.

led to make an observation, which cannot well be omitted; namely, that the present increase of ignorance, as to the principles of Christianity, so remarkable in most of our towns, is evidently owing to the discontinuance or neglect of catechetical instruction, and desertion of divine institutions, followed by the prevalence of gambling and dram-drinking; in connexion with another train of inauspicious circumstances stated under a preceeding article;—to all this must be ascribed much of the present licentiousness, both in morals and politics, and the melancholy difference in the annals of justice in Scotland, so uncommon of late, beyond any former era. For nothing is more certain, than that, if in aid of the worst passions of the human heart, men are allowed to run wild and waste, blind and secure, in ignorance of those divine principles which alone can awe their consciences, and form their minds and lives to genuine goodness, and at the same time are easily and cheaply furnished with that sort of liquor, such as *aquavitae*, or rather *aqua mortis*, and that too, generally, of the most poisonous quality, which intoxicates them into rage and madness; they are then prepared for the perpetration of any crimes, be they ever so nefarious, barbarous, or atrocious.

NUMBER XXXII.

PARISH OF LOCHBROOM.

(County of Ross.—Presbytery of Lochcarron.—Synod of Glenelg.)

By the Reverend Mr RODERICK MACRAE, Missionary Minister in the parish of Applecross.

Origin of the Name.

L OCHBROOM takes its name from a river, which runs through a considerable tract of this parish, called *Meikle Strath*, and an arm of the sea, into which this river falls. In Gaelic the river is called *Braon*, and the country around it *Lochbbraon*. But as this would not sound so well in English, it was thought proper to change it into Lochbroom.

Situation and Extent.—The western boundary of this parish is washed by that part of the Atlantic Ocean, which divides the island of Lewis from the main land of Scotland. The exact length and breadth of it cannot be easily ascertained, as it is of a very irregular figure, being uneven in its marches with the neighbouring parishes, and indented in many places by several small arms of the sea. Some have computed it at 36 miles long, and 20 broad.

Surface, Rivers, Lakes, and Fish, &c.—The far greater part of this parish consists of wild uncultivated mountains and hills, abounding with rocks, moss, and heather. But these
tracts

tracts are not altogether useless, as they serve for pasture to a great number of black cattle. There is, however, a great deal of fine arable lands in which they usually raise pretty rich crops. These fertile spots are for the most part close by the sea side; from which they extend, in some places, in the form of long valleys, to the distance of two computed miles and upwards, such as the *Meikle and little Straths, Strath-Cainard, &c.* Besides these places, which usually produce rich crops both of corn and grass, there are a few good glens, wholly detached from the sea, which are also pretty fertile. In these straths and glens, and different other parts of the parish, there are woods of various kinds; particularly, fir, birch, ash, and aller. There are also some rivers and fresh-water lakes, which furnish some trouts and salmon. And, upon the whole, the surface of this parish yields an agreeable variety of hill and dale, wood and water, corn and grass.

Soil, Produce, and Cultivation.—The soil, though fertile, is not in general deep, but rather light and *jingly*. The crops consist of barley, oats, and pease, together with a great quantity of potatoes. They seldom begin to sow till towards the latter end of April, and sometimes the barley is not wholly laid down till the middle of June. The harvest, however, is commonly pretty early; and, excepting some bad years, the crop is usually all gathered in by the middle of October. The chief implements of husbandry are the plough and the crooked spade; they sometimes, however, use common spades and pick-axes. The manure most used is sea-ware, which is got in considerable quantities on the adjacent shores. They also make a few compound dunghills; and some of the more substantial of the farmers use a small quantity of shelly sand, of which there is a large bank towards the northern extremity of the parish. From this place it is carried in vessels and

and open boats, according to the conveniency and circumstances of the users of it. They sometimes bring it, after landing, in creels or baskets on horseback, from the distance of two or three miles; and, notwithstanding this trouble, they often find that it abundantly repays their labour; for it produces exuberant crops out of lands that were formerly thought good for nothing. The virtue of it, however, does not continue above five or six years; and at the expiration of such a period, from the time of laying it on the ground, they are obliged to leave the lands ley for a certain number of years; commonly three or four. During this interval, the ley lands yield very good grafs.

Climate and Diseases.—The air of this, as well as that of the neighbouring parishes, is somewhat damp and moist; which is chiefly imputable to their near vicinity to the Atlantic Ocean. The rains are much more frequent and heavy in these corners, than in the lower and interior parts of this kingdom; and often prove a prodigious obstruction to the farmers, in the labouring and harvest seasons. They always come on with the westerly winds; and when it blows in a contrary direction, the weather is usually fair. Notwithstanding its wetness, the climate is not unhealthy, and many of the inhabitants live to a good old age; few of them, however, complete 100 years. The people are not subject to any epidemical distempers; but, in spring 1791, they were visited by a most malignant fever, which swept away great numbers of them.

Population.—The population of this parish has increased greatly within these 40 years. The present number of souls is about

	3500
The return to Dr Webster in 1755 was	2211
Increase	1289

Heritors

Heritors and Rent.—The land rents are about 1700 l. Sterling. There are five proprietors, viz. Mr Mackenzie of Cromarty, Mr Mackenzie of Dundonnell, Mr Davidson of Tulloch, Sir Alexander Mackenzie of Coul, and Mr Mackenzie of Achitly. Mr Mackenzie of Dundonnell is the only proprietor who resides in the parish.

Prices of Provisions, and Wages.—Every article almost has of late risen in price. Oat meal, upon an average, sells at 17 s. *per* boll; barley meal at 14 s. barley at 18 s. oats at 16 s. Beef is 2 d. *per* lib. mutton the same; hens 4 d. and sometimes 6 d. each; eggs 2 d. *per* dozen; butter 12 s. *per* stone; cheese 4 s. salmon 11½ d. *per* lib. fresh; herring 7 s. *per* barrel, including all expences previous to packing. A good ploughman gets 4 l. Sterling in a year, together with his maintainance; a woman servant 20 s. a herd 20 s. and a day-labourer 9 d. *per* day without victuals.

Villages and Fisheries.—The British Society have fixed one of their villages here, at a place called Ullapool. The Society began to build some houses in this place, in summer 1788; and private persons have been ever since adding to the number annually; so that in this village there are now about 72 houses, of which 35 are slated; the rest are thatched with turf, fern roots, and heather. The principal inducement to settle in this village is its advantageous situation for the herring fishing, which indeed is very great; being placed on a lake, that has long been remarkable for the finest herring; and holding a central situation with respect to the best fishing lakes on the west coast, both south and north of it. The herring commonly set in for Lochbroom, and some neighbouring lakes, in the month of July; and often continue till spring. They sometimes, however, do not remain long at a time; but

but great shoals of them come at different periods of the same season, and go away again in a few days thereafter. They are always caught in the night-time; and the darker the night is, the better for the fishers, provided it be free of rain. In this village there is a red herring house, where they cured last year 500 barrels fine red-herring. There are other two fishing houses of an older standing, in the neighbourhood of Ullapool; one at *Isle Martin*, about 4 or 5 miles north of Ullapool. This house was erected, about 20 years ago, by a company of Liverpool gentlemen, who keep an overseer there during the fishing season, every year; and they have often reaped considerable profits from this trade. The other house of this kind is at *Isle Tanera*, a little distant to the north of Isle Martin; which was erected, in the year 1785, by a London company and a Mr Roderick Morison from Stornoway, a man of extensive mercantile talents, who was undertaker for the building, and afterwards became manager for the company. During his superintendency, the fishing proved a lucrative branch of business for the company; but he died in summer 1791; and soon after the company was dissolved, and the house and appendages sold to a Mr Macdonald from the Isle of Sky. This gentleman has not had time to make much of the fishing as yet; but, in so favourable a situation for that business, it is not to be doubted, but he will soon experience the same good success with his predecessors. The herring cured in this country are sent to different markets, most frequently to Leith and Greenock, where they fetch high prices. Some are likewise exported to Ireland, where they usually sell to great advantage. There is a salmon fishing, close to the village, on the river of Ullapool. There are also other two salmon fishings in the parish; one at Inverlael, and the other at Meikle Gruinard. But

the quantity of fish, cured at all these three places taken together, is usually little more than the two last.

Roads and Bridges.—There was an excellent road betwixt Ullapool and the town of Dingwall, commenced in summer 1792, and it is now nearly finished; so that, where lately nothing could be carried but in creels on horseback, carts and carriages can now travel with the greatest ease and expedition. This road consists of 38 miles, and has cost government about 4500 l. including bridges, of which there must be a good many in its course. We are informed that similar roads are soon to be made to different other parts of the Highlands; which are indeed highly necessary. Perhaps a few cross roads would be also proper; particularly one from Ullapool to Pollew, which lies about 30 miles south-west of it. And if this road was farther extended from Pollew to Lochcarron, by the shortest cut that could be contrived, it would be of vast service to the West Highlands in general, as an easy communication would, by that means, be opened from one parish to another; and the good effects of such a road would not only be felt all the way from Lochbroom to Glenelg, but would also extend further, to Skye and the *Long Island*. Another cross road from Ullapool to Affint, on the north, would be likewise very useful.

Manufactures, Minerals, Fuel, &c. — No manufactures have taken place here as yet, except a spinning one, which is carried on upon a very small scale, by two of the settlers at Ullapool, merely for the purpose of furnishing employment to a few idle hands. A manufacture on a large scale, that could employ a great number of people, is vehemently desired. Some think that a soap manufacture would be much to the purpose; but the general voice is in favour of a wool-

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len one. In either case, however, they look up to the British Society for assistance, as private adventurers will undertake nothing of that kind, that is likely to be productive of any extensive effects. It were therefore earnestly to be wished that the society and such other patriotic gentlemen, as have an influence in the direction of public measures, would take this matter under consideration; and promote the establishment of some useful manufacture for the advancement of the infant village, which will otherwise be in danger of dwindling into nothing again. Though the fishing be as yet the principal, it would not long be the only, inducement to settle at Ullapool, if effectual measures were taken to encourage settlers. This place is possessed of many of those natural advantages, which are requisite to the formation of a good manufacturing town. Here is an excellent harbour, where a great number of vessels can lie safe at anchor, as well as load and unload. There was a good quay built in it of late, and the entrance to it is safe and easy. Here are also several hundred acres of very good soil, which are parcelled out in lots or feus by the society, for gardens and other useful purposes to the settlers. Some of it is inclosed and subdivided in this way already, to very great purpose. A few of the settlers have made some very fine gardens, where they rear pot-herbs and various useful roots. Adjoining to this is a large track of pasture ground, which will support a number of cattle for them. Here is also abundance of stones for building, and lime-stone too at a little distance; besides the advantage of plenty of fuel from a number of good peat mosses, which are contiguous to every farm, and almost inexhaustible; and a river, which might be of great service in moving machinery. To all these advantages we may add, that, if agriculture were encouraged, and habits of industry diffused among the people

ple by men of skill and influence, many parts of Lochbroom could be made a good corn country.

Harbours, Shipping, &c.—Besides the harbour at the village, already mentioned, there are so many other harbours in Lochbroom, that it would be tedious to enumerate them. These are chiefly to be found on both sides of the *Meikle* and *Little Lochs*, and along the coast of *Coigach*. There are 6 vessels belonging to Ullapool; which, together with 4 or 5 more belonging to the fishing stations at Tanera and Isle Martin, employ about 40 seamen. There are no fixed ferries here, but one is much needed betwixt Ullapool and the opposite side of the lake.

Mineral Springs—There is a mineral spring at Leckmelm, about 2 miles east of Ullapool, which is thought to be of a very salubrious quality. Perhaps it may hereafter be found to contain powerful virtues, though no pains have as yet been taken to ascertain them. Some medical gentlemen, who happened to pass that way, were of opinion that it would be serviceable in consumptive cases. There is another mineral spring upon the glebe, but little or no notice has been taken of it.

Church, &c.—There is a pretty good church here, which was built several years ago. It was lately repaired and elegantly seated at the expence of the heritors. The money stipend is 91 l. Sterling, and the glebe is worth about 30 l. a year. There is besides a large track of ground mortified for the benefit of the church, worth 20 l. a year. So that this living in all is worth 141 l. Sterling a year. The present incumbent is Mr Alexander Stronach. Mr Mackenzie of Cromarty is patron. There are no funds for the poor,
but

but what arise from the weekly collections, which in this parish are very trifling, in some years scarce amounting to 4l. at the parish church. And when to this are added a few small collections taken up in other parts of the parish, the sum will still be very low.

Schools.—The parochial schoolmaster has a salary of 12 l. a year. He is a man of very good abilities, and has been preceded by a series of men, who were sufficiently qualified for their business. But still it is to be regretted, that the school is of no great benefit to the inhabitants. This is partly to be ascribed to a stupid indifference in the generality of the people, with regard to every branch of literature, and partly to the want of due encouragement from those who should be ready to promote the improvement of the people in this way. It is a general and well founded complaint, that schoolmasters meet with too little encouragement in most places. It is certainly a grievance which merits redress, that men of liberal education, so laboriously and usefully employed in the service of the public, should labour for so small a pittance as the generality of schoolmasters salaries are. There are two Society schools in this parish, one at Ullapool, and the other at Little Strath. That at Ullapool has a salary of 25 l. a year, and is usually attended by a good number of scholars, commonly 40 and upwards. The teacher, Robert Monro, has been formerly ordained preacher every Sunday, besides teaching through the week. The school at Little Strath has a salary of 12 l. a year, and is also pretty well attended.

Character and Manner of Living.—The people are in general honest, sober, and well disposed. At their burials and marriages, however, they too much adhere to the folly of their ancestors. On these occasions they have a custom of feasting a great number of their friends and neighbours, and
this

this often at an expence, which proves greatly to the prejudice of poor orphans and young people ; although these feasts are seldom productive of any quarrels or irregularities among them. With regard to their food, fish and potatoes constitute the principal part. For most years the produce of the soil does not afford them a sufficient supply of meal, and they usually buy a considerable quantity, and that often at a very high rate, from vessels which are sent by meal-mongers to the country.

Advantages and Disadvantages, &c.—It is a very great advantage to the people here to be so near the sea. The herring fishing not only contributes much to their support, but also helps them to pay their rents. Still, however, they are in general rather poor, and think the land-rents too high. The oppression of the landholders is a general complaint in the Highlands ; and the consequence is, that great numbers of the people are forced to emigrate to America, while others go to service in the low countries and manufacturing towns. And thus the population of these corners is not near so great as might be expected in such an extent of territory. Another circumstance, which is unfriendly to population, is the engrossing of farms for sheep walks. This mode of farming has been introduced lately into some parts of this parish, and proved the occasion of reducing to hardships several honest families, who lived tolerably happy on the fruits of their industry and frugality. Whoever would wish to see the population of this country flourishing, should do all in their power to put a stop to the sheep traffic, and to introduce manufactures among the people. Whole districts have been already depopulated by the introduction of sheep ; so that, where formerly hundreds of people could be seen, no human faces are now to be met with, except a shepherd attended by his dog.

It

It has been said, however, that these people who are dispossessed of their farms, can live much more comfortably in the manufacturing employment, than ever they could do before. But would they not be still more happy, if manufactures were introduced among themselves * ? And is it not a matter of importance to the nation to encourage population in the Highlands, as well as in other parts of the kingdom ? Besides these inconveniencies, many of the people of Lochbroom are at a loss for the means of religious instruction, though they have got a clergyman to the village, and are besides furnished with three catechists from the committee for the royal bounty. In such an extensive parish, there ought to be no fewer than 4 clergymen, in order to afford the benefit of Christian worship and public instruction to the whole body of the people. In their present state many of them do not hear so much as one sermon in a year, which is also the case with different parts of some neighbouring parishes. In Lochbroom it is a striking circumstance to see crowds of people coming for christenings and marriages from a distance of several miles, both by sea and land, in the time of boisterous and rainy weather †.

Proposed Improvement.—If this parish were divided into 4 districts, each of them would form a sufficiently extensive
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* There was a LINT MANUFACTURING STATION established here, some time ago, by the Board of Trustees for fisheries and manufactures. While this work continued it was of great service to this parish, but it has been long since given up. The house, where the superintendant lived, stands at the end of the Meikle Loch, and could be repaired at a small expence, so as to be occupied again.

† The clergyman of the village could perform these good offices, to such of them as are contiguous to him. But it is a pity that the minister of the parish should be so fondly tenacious of his dignity, as to deny this indulgence.

and populous charge for one clergyman. *Coigach* would comprehend two of these districts; one of which would be confined to *Ullapool* and its environs, consisting of upwards of 1000 souls. The *Aird of Coigach* would form another district, which is separated from the *Ullapool* district, by an extensive track of moss, mountains, and rocks. In this district there are upwards of 600 souls; and some of the tenants there, with the concurrence of the proprietor, made lately a very laudable attempt to obtain a mission from *the SOCIETY for Propagating CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE*, in which we are sorry they did not succeed. The Society, though possessed of ample funds, think it necessary to stipulate for their missions, terms and conditions which the Highland proprietors are so unwilling to comply with, that few of them are likely to take place. It has been said, and not without reason, that the society's great funds would be more productive of good and extensive effects, if they settled their missions independently on any stipulations with the proprietors of estates; as in this case, the people immediately reaping the benefit of a mission, would furnish the incumbent with the more necessary accommodations, such as a dwelling-house and a place of worship; that with regard to a glebe, which is the principal obstruction, it should never be insisted on as a necessary condition for the establishment of a mission. In some cases, a missionary would not occupy a glebe though he had it, and, in most places, if he was disposed to keep a few cattle, he could always, for a little rent, obtain grass for them, either from the tenants or proprietor; and that according to the present mode of settling missions adopted by the Society, those places, that have most need, have least chance of being provided with them. The Society, however, must have good reasons for their proceedings, though it is to be regretted that the effects should thus, though contrary to their intention, retard the object they have in view to promote. The enlightening of these benighted

nighted corners, for whose improvement and happiness the pious intended their liberal bequests, is an object of such importance, that it were to be wished matters could be settled on a more favourable footing. It is hard indeed, that if a poor ignorant set of people, in an obscure corner, have the misfortune to be under a niggardly or a poor proprietor, that does not care a farthing for their souls or bodies further than to get his rents, they should suffer on that account, and be deprived of the blessings which their more feeling Christian brethren intended them. The 3d district of Lochbroom might comprehend *Little Strath, Strathnasailg, the Laich, &c.* and would also stand in need of a mission. It contains about 380 souls. The 4th, and the last district, might comprehend the rest of this parish, viz. Meikle Strath, and other places contiguous to the parish church, which consist of about 950 souls.

Antiquities.—Here may be seen the ruins of several old fortifications. But the traditions concerning them are so various and doubtful, that nothing certain can be determined with regard to their original. In an Island, on the south-west of this parish, may be seen two large coves, one on the north side of the island, and the other on the south. That on the north would be sufficiently large for 50 men, either to sit or lie down in. It is said to have been inhabited by a Popish priest, who used to shift his quarters from one cove to another, as the weather directed. It still retains the name of *Priest Island*.

NUMBER XXXIII.

PARISH OF KIRKOSWALD.

(County and Presbytery of Ayr.—Synod of Glasgow and Ayr.)

By the Reverend Mr MATTHEW BIGGAR, Minister of that Parish*.

Origin of the Name.

THE common tradition concerning the name of this parish, carries us so far into the dark ages of the Scotch History, that it will not be very interesting to the public. The tradition, however, which has been handed down for near these 200 years, is as follows: During the heptarchy in England, the King of Northumberland was slain in battle, and his army routed by a neighbouring prince. OSWALD, the king's eldest son, having made his escape from the field of battle, fled to the king of Scots, by whom he was most favourably received, and raised to the command of his armies. Some time after, Oswald led the Scots army against the Strathclyde Britons, with whom the king was at war, and both armies came in fight of each other near this place. Upon the day before the battle, Oswald made a vow, that if he should

* It deserves to be recorded, to the honour of this worthy clergyman, that his statistical account was drawn up under all the disadvantages of blindness, which has not however impaired his energy of mind, or damped his zeal, for promoting the good of his country.

should obtain the victory, he would build a church upon the field of battle. Victory having declared in his favour, he performed his vow, and gave his own name to the church. The vestiges of a small circular camp about half an English mile to the south, and the great number of large whin or muir stones that were lately standing about 200 yards to the east, of this place, in such a form as might give reason to suppose that those who fell in the battle were buried there, are circumstances which seem to confirm the tradition. Some time after, Oswald got possession of his father's kingdom; and, being zealous for the establishment of Christianity, and very friendly to the clergy, was, after his death, canonized as a Saint. It is well known that, within the antient kingdom of Northumberland, there is a town called Kirkoswald, after this king. In this town there is an annual fair upon the fifth day of August; and there has, for time immemorial, been a fair in this place on the same day. This fact seems also to countenance the above tradition.

Situation, Erection, Extent, and Prospects.—The parish is situated in that district of Ayrshire, called Carrick, and in the presbytery of Ayr. Prior to 1652, the extent of this parish was considerably larger than it is at present. At that time the parish of Barr was erected from the high and distant parts of the parishes of Girvan, Dailly, and Colmonel. To make up what was taken from the parishes of Dailly and Girvan, a considerable track of land upon the north-west side of the water of Girvan, amounting to a fourth part of this parish, was annexed to Dailly and Girvan. The greater part by far of the proprietors lands have been exactly measured; and by taking the mean length and breadth of the whole, there appear to be near 11000 Scots acres. The tea-coast of the parish from north to south is six English miles;
the

the greater part of which is a sandy beach, with a beautiful and rich carpet of grass, to the very sea-mark. From every part of this coast there is a beautiful prospect of the Frith of Clyde, land-locked, as it were, on all sides, by the coast of Cunningham, island of Bute, island of Arran, Kintyre, the coast of Ireland, and the coast in the parishes of Kirkum, Ballantrae, Colmonel, and Girvan. The scene, varied by the different height and appearance of the above coasts, with the many small islands interspersed along them, renders the whole view most delightful. What adds to the beauty and grandeur of the prospect, is the noble rock of *Ailsa*, set down in the middle of the Frith. This coast commands the nearest, most distinct, and regular view of this rock. In a clear day, it is easy to discern the remains of a castle upon it, with several roads diversified by spots of verdure. It stands, in a circular form, about 15 English miles from the shore, and belongs to the Earl of Cassillis *.

The half of this coast towards the north is very favourable for sea-bathing; partly because the sea gradually deepens for a considerable way, while the bottom is perfectly clear of all rocks and stones; but chiefly because it lies at a considerable distance from any fresh water, being 8 miles south from the river of Doon, and 4 miles north from that of Girvan. At present the principal inconvenience for bathing, is the want of proper habitations.

Ecclesiastical State.—The King is patron of the parish †. The

* Though it be always stated as belonging to the parish of Dailly, being annexed to a Barony, the property of the Earl of Cassillis, in that parish, yet the tacksmen of it have, from time immemorial, resided in this parish.

† The present incumbent was ordained October 5th 1752.
Mr

The stipend of this parish is in money 33 l. 5 s 2 d Sterling; for communion elements 3 l. 6 s 8 d Sterling; in meal 43 bolls 1 firloft; and in bear 20 bolls and 3 firlofts: There is also a glebe confifting of 1 acre 3 roods of natural meadow, and 4 acres of arable ground, exclusive of the fite of the manfe, the offices, and the garden. The decreet of locality and modification for the above stipends, was given in the year 1650. About two years ago, a decreet of augmentation was obtained for 25 l. Sterling additional stipend. It is uncertain when the old church of Kirkoswald was built. It feems to have undergone many alterations. It ftands in a very low fituation, furrounded by a very large burying place, which is walled in. In 1777 a new church was built upon a rifing ground, a very little to the fouth of the former, fit to hold 800 hearers, from a plan, and under the direction, of David Earl of Caffillis, who is refident proprietor of above two-thirds of the parish; and it is confidered as one of the neateft churches in this country. This church is 68 feet by 31 within the walls, having a gallery in each end, and an aisle, with a fire room, finifhed at the expence of the Earl of Caffillis, and which he is obliged to keep up. The prefent manfe was built in the year 1770, upon a plan by Thomas Earl of Caffillis, and is a very neat and convenient houfe. There were never any feceders in this parish till the year 1790, when one family came from Beith, of the burgher perfuafion.

School.

Mr CUPPLES, his immediate predeceffor, was ordained in 1720, of whom this particular circumftance is recorded, that he was the firft minifter in Scotland, who, according to the act of Affembly, gave in his letter of acceptance to the prefbytery, with the Crown prefentation. His predeceffor, Mr ADAM, who was the firft minifter after the re-eftablifhment of prefbytery, was ordained in 1694. The laft Epifcopal minifter, Mr Claud Hamilton, was appointed here in 1670, and retired to Maybole in 1691.

School.—There is an established schoolmaster, with a salary of no more than 100 merks Scotch, which is by far too small, as he enjoys no other advantage whatever, except the wages he receives from his scholars, together with the emoluments of session clerk and precentor: He is obliged to rent his dwelling house and garden. The heritors pay rent for a school-house. As the most populous parts of the parish are at the distance of four miles, it is very inconvenient for young children to attend the public school. Private schools are therefore kept in these parts of the parish.

Population.—As this article is most important and essential in statistical accounts, it demands peculiar attention. There has been preserved an old session register, conducted with great exactness, from 1611 to 1661, and from 1694 to the present day. The following is an extract from Dr Webster's account of the population in 1755: 'The number of souls in Kirkoswald is 1168, number of fighting men from the age of 18 to 56 is 233.' From these, and a careful inspection and visitation of the parish in 1791 and 1792, the population of the parish at different periods may be ascertained. On the ninth of February 1640, the solemn league and covenant was sworn to, and subscribed by the inhabitants of this parish. The original was deposited in the hands of the minister, Mr John Burne, and a copy inserted in the records of the kirk session. This copy is still extant. From it we learn that the parish contained precisely 300 males, who were disposed and qualified to engage in this transaction. Fifty-eight, including the minister, subscribed their own names;—242, with their hands at the pen, authorised public notaries to subscribe for them. Supposing the number who subscribed to comprehend only the males above 20, the population at that time must have been little inferior to
what

what it is at present. But it must be remembered, that the extent of the parish is now diminished one fourth by the above mentioned annexation to Girvan and Dailly; and that probably some males below 20 would, of themselves, be ambitious, or prompted by others, to enroll their names in so popular a deed: Accordingly, we shall afterwards find reason to conclude, that the inhabitants are now a fifth part more numerous than they were a century and a half ago. In 1720, at Mr Cupples' ordination, it appears from the register of the parish, that the population amounted nearly to 1168 souls, being exactly the same number as in Dr Webster's account: Consequently the population of the parish, from 1720 to 1755, appears to have been almost stationary. In the year 1791, the inhabitants were numbered, and it was found, that, during the last 40 years, they had increased 167. The result of this enumeration may be specified as follows:

Number of males	-	643	Num. of souls between 10	
----- females		692	and 20	- 264
			----- 20 & 50	516
Total number of souls	1335		----- 50 & 70	153
Married persons	392		----- 70 & 90	44
Widows and widowers	65			-----
Num. of souls below 10	358			1335

There are at present no remarkable instances of longevity. The oldest man in the parish is not above 87. But during the last ten years, several have died considerably above 90. The following table exhibits an abstract of the parochial register of marriages, baptisms, and burials, from the commencement of the register of each, to the 1st of January 1791, with the annual average for every ten years, fractions omitted.

Table

Table of Marriages, &c.*

	Years.	Mar- riages	Annual average.	Bap- tisms.	Annual average	Burials.	Annual average.
From 14. Aug. 10 1. Jan.	1694	0	7	166	23	From March 12. 1721, to Jan. 1. 1731	
	1701						
	1711	82	8	281	28		
	1721	111	11	334	33		
	1731	96	9	388	38		
	1741	105	10	335	33		
	1751	114	11	367	36		
	1761	90	9	384	38		
	1771	101	10	375	37		
	1781	105	10	353	35		
	1791	96	9	370	37		
		950		3357			
						1667	

Division

* In the above account of marriages, those are excluded, which probably were not consummated in this parish. These, during the course of the above period, amount to 191. Dividing the baptisms by the marriages, exclusive of the above 191, the average of births from each marriage is only from 3 to 4, or fully 7 births for every 2 marriages. But, as in the table of births, the fruit of those marriages, which were celebrated in other parishes, and consummated here, is included; it may perhaps be proper, in comparing the marriages and births, to include also those marriages which were celebrated here, and consummated in other parishes. If, then, this be done, by adding the above 191 to the marriages, the average of births from each marriage will be from 4 to 5. Subtracting the burials from the baptisms, the total surplus of baptisms is 908, for the last 70 years, which amounts nearly to 13 annually. As the population has, during that time, only increased 167, the total emigration is 741, and the annual average nearly 10.

Division and Occupations of the Inhabitants.—There are 280 inhabited houses in the parish, each containing from 1 to 17 souls; and at an average almost 5. Of 8 heritors only 4 are resident. Of these the Earl of Cassillis, who is proprietor of more than two-thirds of the parish, is the principal. The bulk of the inhabitants are farmers, who possess at an average about 130 acres of ground. The leases are all for 19 years. In the tacks assignees are excluded, and sometimes the power of subsetting. The number of tenants is 76; of subtenants 26.

All personal services from the tenant to the proprietor are entirely abolished, except the leading of coals to the master; and in each tack the particular quantity the tenant is bound to lead is specified.

Servants of every description do not exceed 120. The females are rather more numerous than the males. About 20 of both sexes are employed in domestic services; the rest in managing the dairy and farm. The bulk of them, being unmarried, eat in their masters houses; and, at an average, the males receive 6l. and the females 3 l. Sterling, *per annum*. About 14 male servants are married, and live with their own families. These, at an average, receive 5 l. a-year, and are allowed, by their masters, a house and yard, 6½ bolls of meal yearly, a milch cow maintained summer and winter, and the growing of a few potatoes; all which renders their state more comfortable, and their continuance in their master's service more certain than those of the unmarried servants*. Cottagers are in number 109, and rent from the farmer a house and

* So small a number of labouring servants is not adequate to the half of the labour. The remainder is performed partly by the farmers themselves and their families, and partly by cottagers.

and yard at 1 l. *per annum*, a cow's grafs at 1 l. *per annum*, and an acre or two of land, for which they pay something more than the principal tack duty. Some of them are bound to work for their master during the harvest, for which they receive the fee usual in the country; others are bound to work during the winter half year, and receive their meat in the house: During the remainder of the year, they are employed with the other cottagers in ditching and dyke building, and other labours of husbandry. There is one particular species of labour begun to be practised in this country, called Jobbing. The farmers let the whole threshing of their crop to these cottagers at 10 d. *per boll*, as it measures when cleared of the chaff. They also let the cutting down of their whole crop from 4 s. to 5 s. *per acre*; and the mowing of their hay at 1 s. 6 d. *per acre*. Tradesmen and fishermen, who have a permanent abode in the parish, with one grocer, amount altogether to 73, and inhabit 59 houses.

Thus, at the end of July 1792, the division and occupations of the inhabitants of this parish might be stated as follows :

Total inhabited houses	-	-	-	280
				<i>houses.</i>
4 Heritors and families occupy	-	-	-	4
76 Tenants	-	-	-	74
26 Subtenants	-	-	-	26
14 Servants (not domestics)	-	-	-	14
105 Cottagers	-	-	-	105
16 Weavers	-	-	-	12
2 Gardeners, with 6 journeymen			-	2
6 Blacksmiths	-	-	-	5
5 Cartwrights	-	-	-	3
1 Ship-carpenter	-	-	-	1
5 Joiners	-	-	-	3
				6 Sher

	<i>houses.</i>					
6 Shoemakers	-	-	-	-	-	4
4 Millers	-	-	-	-	-	4
4 Taylors	-	-	-	-	-	4
1 Grocer	-	-	-	-	-	1
18 Fishermen and seamen	-	-	-	-	-	14
4 Miners	-	-	-	-	-	4
						<hr/>
Total	-	-	-	-	-	280

Among the above number are seven licensed retailers of ale and British spirits. There is one licensed retailer of wine and foreign spirits, who resides in the village. One post chaise is kept here for hire: A diligence goes three times a-week between Ayr and Portpatrick, which changes horses at Kirkoswald. Forty years ago, there was no communication between this place and Ayr, the head town of the county, but by a riding post on Tuesday, and a foot post on Thursday: No carrier whatever passed by this to Ayr. Some families in this part of the country, connected with the Courts of Session and Exchequer, gave some business to a carrier from Maybole to Edinburgh once a fortnight. Now a riding post from Ayr to Girvan passes this place every day. Two carriers with carts pass once a week from Girvan to Ayr; and one carrier from Girvan to Glasgow once a week. To all this is to be added, that post horses and chaises are ready at all times at Girvan, Maybole, and this place, together with the above mentioned diligence.

Surface, Soil, &c. &c.—The surface is hilly. The hills, except in two places, called Mochrum and Craigdow, never rise to any considerable height. Near Mochrum, there is a loch which covers 24 Scots acres, and another, apparently

as large, near Craigdow. These lochs either do not abound in fish, or the fishings are totally neglected. From them, and from numberless springs which rise out of every hill, flow many small streams; which wander through the parish, and afford abundance of pure water. Except the very tops of Mochrum and Craigdow, and a few spots of moss, the whole parish is arable.

There is little or no natural wood in the parish. But the wants of this is happily supplied by the plantations made by the Earl of Cassillis and Sir Adam Fergusson. The former has, within these few years, planted upon his estate, and especially in his policy, 560 acres; and, notwithstanding their proximity to the Sea, the trees are exceedingly thriving. Sir Adam Fergusson, on that part of his estate in this parish which lies on the north side of the water of Girvan, and opposite to his seat of Kilkerran, has planted 240 acres, all of which are in the most thriving condition. The soil of the parish is different. The difference in the kind of soil is marked nearly by the great post road from Ayr to Girvan, which passes through the whole length of the parish from N. to S. Between this road and the sea-shore, comprehending about 4000 acres of land, the soil is generally a very rich loam, mixed with a considerable quantity of clay. There are few or no banks of sand, and the land is dry, and favourable for pasture or the plough, even to the sea-mark. To the south and east of the above post road, the ground rises considerably; the soil is more light, upon a free-stone bottom, intermixed also with some clay; and is upon the whole more wet than the land towards the shore.

State of Agriculture.—Notwithstanding the advantages of soil, and other circumstances, this parish was, forty years ago, generally in a wild and uncultivated state. Indeed, there
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were several inclosures, and some very fine old trees, about Cullean Castle. But the fences were mostly of stone. Of these inclosures, the most remarkable was that called the Cow Park of Cullean, containing about 50 acres, which had been in pasture for two hundred years, yet there is not, to this day, to be seen in it the smallest spot of fog. There was also the park of Turnberry, containing about 460 acres, which was inclosed with stone about the beginning of the century, and has been in pasture ever since *. All the rest of the parish was then perfectly open, except the tenants kail yards, which were fenced in a very coarse manner, with land stones and turf, and the greater part without any planting. The tenants yards on the coast were fenced with an earthen dyke. On this was planted ader, (or, according to the vulgar name, bountree,) which thrives exceedingly, affords great shelter, and is disliked by all cattle and sheep. This almost total want of planting and inclosures, gave a dreary look to the whole parish.

The tillage and pasture lands were under equally bad management. The farms upon the shore, the richest part of the parish, were then of great extent, each containing above 200 acres. The farm houses, pleasantly situated near the shore,

* About fifty years ago, the late Mr Gilbert Blane of Blane-field, began to inclose by ditch and hedge, and made a considerable extent of fences in that way, most of them double; and in the space between the double fences, he planted a great many forest trees. But such was the general aversion which the country people then had to improvements of that kind, that it was not in his power to preserve them from being pulled out and destroyed; so that few of these inclosures are now useful, and little of the planting remains.

Mr Blane was likewise the first person in the parish who introduced the improvement of land by lime, and gave an experimental proof that the most barren heath could, by means of that manure, be converted in a very short time into excellent pasture.

shore, had round them about 30 or 40 acres of croft ground. The rest of the farms went back to the higher grounds of the parish, and was called out-field. Their croft land had been immemorially in tillage, without one year's rest. They commonly manured the third part of it with sea-weed, which they carried upon horses backs (for not one tenant in the parish had a single cart) during the three months of winter. At candlemas they ploughed it down. In the beginning of May they gave it another fur, and then sowed bear upon it. This, by the most intelligent, was followed with only one crop of oats, and then with a crop of pease; and the sea-weed succeeded the pease crop. Part of their croft ground was also manured with dung, which they sowed with bear, any time between Whitfunday and the end of May. They were accustomed to manure such parts of their out-field land as they wished to plough, by inclosing their cattle upon it in folds. From the land thus manured, they generally took four crops of oats. It was observed that the crop was always strongest on those parts of the field, on which the earth that had composed the fold dyke was spread. The same mode of culture took place in the higher grounds, to the south of what is now the post road. In process of time, they began to spread lime, which they brought on horses backs from the parish of Dailly, upon their folds. They usually gave about 20 bolls to the acre, reckoning 2 bushels of shells to the boll. From the ground there manured, they took five crops of oats. They also began to improve their croft land with lime, by sowing with the hand, immediately after they had sown their pease, half a boll of flaked lime to every half peck of pease.

About twenty years ago, the husbandry of this parish underwent a total and happy revolution. The farms were considerably diminished in extent, the boundaries were properly straightened,

straightened, and they began to be inclosed and subdivided with ditch and hedge. Almost, in the course of ten years, the farms in the whole parish, were thus inclosed and divided. The sheep were entirely banished; and instead of five or six mean looking horses, every farmer got four horses, each of them equal in strength and value to two of their former ones, with a cart horse to each. Sir Thomas Kennedy, afterwards Earl of Caillies, took the lead in this improved mode of agriculture. He enlarged, to a great extent, the farm and policy about Cullean Castle, and placed the direction of the whole under the deceased Mr Foulis, who lived near Elintone. About the same time, Sir Adam Fergusson brought into this parish some farmers of great skill in husbandry. Both these proprietors, and all the other heritors, in their new tacks, took the tenants bound to such wise regulations, and such a proper rotation of crops, as have contributed greatly to the improved state of agriculture in this parish. The tenants first of all laid down their croft lands with rye grass and clover, took one crop of hay, sometimes two, and rested them four years in pasture. Then they began to their out-field. The whole system of folding was given up. They were bound in their tacks not to break up any of their out-field, without lime or dung, to take two crops of oats, and lay down with the third; or to take the third crop in pease, and lay down with the fourth. Such, in general, were the stipulations in the tack. But when the tenant had a great quantity of coarse, stiff, out-field land, he was indulged by his master in taking three crops of oats, and in laying down with the fourth. Some farms have been so situated with respect to their stiff out-field, as to find it necessary to take their fourth crop of pease, and lay down with new dung with the fifth. In the south part of the parish, by far the most extensive, as containing about 6000 acres of ground, there is some out-field covered

covered with a very strong heath. In most parts the soil below is a strong deep clay. This, with the heath roots, renders it incapable of being subdued without a very great expence of lime and labour. To provide against this, the practice of paring and burning has, with great advantage, been introduced. The paring, generally, costs about 1 l. *per* acre. So soon as the weather permits, the surface is burnt, and the ashes spread over the field. The good farmer, during the summer months, adds 40 bolls of lime to the acre. If, after harvest, the ground is dry, it is plowed. In the spring it is sown with oats. Three crops are taken, and it is sown down with rye grass in the fourth. Some fields, cultivated in this way, have yielded upwards of five bolls *per* acre, the second year, with a prodigious quantity of straw, and at last good pasture, where before an acre would not have fattened a sheep. In liming the grounds, where the soil is stiff and coarse, they give 100 bolls *per* acre, where it is less so 80; and in light thin soils 60 answer perfectly well. When they go over their ground a second time, they generally use a compost of earth and lime, allowing one third less of lime than formerly. This has succeeded exceedingly well. By attending to this practice, and by taking great care of their hedges, this parish now exhibits a state of improved agriculture, superior to most of the districts of Carrick.

The tenant, however, labours under considerable difficulty in procuring lime. Almost all of it must be brought from the parish of Dailly, across the most hilly part of this parish to the south. The medium distance from the lime quarry to the shore part of the parish, is about five English miles. But the length of the road is not the chief difficulty. Many parts of the road are so steep and rugged, that the farmer, at the above distance, with horses at 18 l. price, cannot bring more than seven bushels in a one horse cart, and can load
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but once a day. Notwithstanding all this, it appears, by a note from the clerks of the lime works, there were brought into this parish in summer 1791, 48,000 bushels of lime shells.

Several marle pits have been found, within these three years, in those parts of the parish which lie at the greatest distance from the lime, and within an English mile of the sea. So easily is the marle wrought, that one farmer with 6 horses, manured 30 acres in summer 1791. It is put out of the pit, ready to be taken away at 1 d. *per* cart, and 80 cart loads are allowed to each acre. The farms thus manured promise to be soon in a high state of cultivation.

When speaking of the different kinds of manure, one circumstance deserves to be mentioned. On a farm upon the shore, there have been observed from time immemorial, within 30 yards of the sea-mark, two large hillocks, 10 yards distant from each other, covered with sand and bent. About 12 years ago, by a violent storm from the sea, the end of one of the hillocks was uncovered, and there appeared something like coal ashes. This called the farmers attention, who immediately opened up the hillock, and discovered a prodigious quantity. These ashes were used as manure, first upon ley ground, and afterwards, mixed with lime, on light croft ground, with little or no success; but were found to answer well for garden roots. Although above 1000 large cart loads have been taken, yet there remain in the two hillocks, at a moderate computation, above 3000 loads more. Tradition does not inform us whence these ashes came in such quantity. There is no vestige of any building whatsoever, nearer than the old farm-house, and the place is 4 English miles distant from any coal work. It has been supposed they are the effects of barbarous superstition in times of idolatry in this country.

The prevailing crop in this parish is oats, which are of an exceeding good quality, though not of the early kind. Some oats have been known to weigh 42 lbs. English, *per* Winchester bushel, and to yield 21 pecks of meal *per* boll. As the soil of the parish is generally light, the next prevailing crop is bear, which is of a very fine quality for malt. Some of the bear in this parish weighs 50 lbs. English *per* bushel. Barley crops are not so frequent, because, though good in quality, yet the crop fails a fourth part in quantity when compared to bear. Some pease and beans are also sown, but they are often with difficulty brought safe into the barn-yard. The farmers plant considerable quantities of potatoes, which they manage with the plough in rows, at 3 feet distance. Few or no farmers think of less than an acre, producing 40 bolls, chiefly for their family use; the boll nearly 10 Winchester bushels. The turnip husbandry has been very little practised in this parish, except on Lord Cassill's farm at Cullean Castle, where it has been very successful. Most people think the soil of the parish, in general, favourable for turnip, and several farmers have thoughts of trying it.

The great change that has taken place in the corn milns, both in respect of the tenure of the milns, and the manner of performing the work, has much contributed to the encouragement of agriculture in this parish. Forty years ago, the landlord obliged the tenant in his tack, to go to his own miln, with all his grindable corn above his feed, and to pay to the miller a very heavy multure. But now many of the gentlemen of property, leave the tenant free to go to any miln upon their land, where he can be best served, paying to the miller nothing more than the mere working of his grain, which is from 4 d. to 5 d. *per* boll of oats grinding into meal; the victual boll exactly eight Winchester bushels. There were no barley milns in this country forty years ago. There

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are now in this parish two barley milns, which make this necessary article to any degree of fineness, at the rate of from 20 d. to 2 s. *per* boll. This circumstance encourages the farmer to sow barley instead of bear, as there is at all times a ready market for the made barley, among the store farmers in the Highlands of Carrick. To this may be added, that 40 years ago, every tenant dried his oats upon his own kiln, constructed in a very coarse manner. Now every miln in the parish has a kiln adjoining to it, properly bottomed with tyle, and so constructed as to go with every wind. These dry grain at the low price of from 1 d. to 2 d. *per* boll. Indeed the farmers, who have a very great tillage, are now getting kilns of this sort, upon their own farms, at their own expence. What, however, adds to the charge of the farmer in this article, is the distance from coal proper for the purpose of drying; which cannot be got nearer than 15 miles from this place.

The dairy was in a most neglected state in this parish forty years ago. Good butter and cheese were scarcely to be found. Now the milk cows are changed to the better, are put into parks sown down with white and yellow clover, and when they live in the house by night or by day, are fed upon cut red clover. Every steading of farm houses has an apartment by itself for a milk house, and every conveniency suited to it. Both butter and cheese are now exported from the parish to the markets of Ayr and Paisley. Butter in 1791 sold for 8 s. and new milk cheese for 4 s. 8 d. *per* English stone.

There is very little lint sown in this parish. The soil is thought to be in general too light for it.

Many of the farmers now fatten cattle for the market, besides bringing up a number of young cattle every year. They never have been in the use of rearing their own horses, which would be a great saving. They are commonly purchased from Ireland. The number of labouring horses in the parish is

300. The stock of milk and yeild cattle varies every year according to the tillage and pasture in the several farms.

The principal export from the parish, to the manufacturing towns, is oat-meal and bear. In the year 1783, there was exported from this parish, of crop 1782, which failed through almost the whole of Scotland, above 1200 bolls of oat-meal. At present, there are above 1500 bolls of oat-meal exported annually, to the manufacturing towns, besides bear and potatoes.

State of Manufactures.—The people are mostly employed in farming operations. In no one part of the parish, except the village of Kirkoswald, is there any number of houses together. In the village there are only 17 families. In these circumstances it cannot be expected, that manufactures can be any way very prevalent. Within these two years a thread mill, and a carding and spinning machine for wool, have been erected, and are now successfully employed. It were to be wished that the proprietors of land would give every proper encouragement to undertakings of this kind, in a parish where labour is cheap, and where there is plenty of all kinds of good provisions. There is one species of manufacture in this parish, which ought not to omitted; that is, the manufacturing of wool into coarse blanketing and plaiding. This is chiefly carried on by the farmers, who have a number of daughters or female servants, and by the cottagers and their families. A number of the farmers import from Argyleshire and Galloway, great quantities of wool; which is spun and woven in this parish, and sold at the markets of Maybole and Ayr.

Upon the coast of this parish, cod, ling, haddock, &c. are so plenty, as occasionally to attract different companies of fishermen from Ayr. Lately a salmon fishery has been be-

gun

gun on this coast, which promises to be very productive. White fish sell for 1 d. and salmon from 2 d. to 5 d. *per lib* *.

Rent,

* *Antient and Modern Buildings.*—Upon a small promontory on the barony of Turnberry, now the property of the Earl of Cassilis, are the ruins of the famous castle of Turnberry, the seat of the Earls of Carrick. When or by whom it was built, is altogether uncertain. Authentic history, however, informs us, that in 1274, Martha, Countess of Carrick, lived in this her castle, and was that year married to Robert Bruce Earl of Anandale. From this marriage sprung the Kings of Scotland, of the race of Stewart. In 1306, Turnberry was held by an English garrison, under Earl Percy; and some years after this we find that King Robert Bruce stormed the castle, still in possession of the English, routed and expelled the garrison, but at the expence of the destruction of the building. After this we do not hear of its being inhabited.

The situation of this castle is most delightful, having a full prospect of the whole firth of Clyde, as above described. Upon the land side, it looks over a rich plain of above 600 acres. This plain is bounded by the hills, which rise in a beautiful amphitheatre. Little now is known as to the extent of this antient building. There still remain the vestige of a ditch, and part of the buttresses of the draw-bridge. There is a passage, which opens towards the sea, arched above, leading to a large apartment in the castle, which by tradition is said to have been the kitchen. This castle has been built of whin-stone, and is remarkable for the very strong cement that has been used in building it. The ruins, as they now lie, cover an acre of ground.

The next remarkable old building in the parish, is the Abbey of Crossregall or Crossreguill, founded by Duncan King of Scotland, in 1260, situated two miles east from the village. It is more entire than any abbey in the west of Scotland. The side walls of the church and choir still remain to the height of fourteen feet. It has been exceedingly well lighted within. Towards the east remains the nitch, where the principal altar stood. On the right of this is the vestry, and the Abbot's ecclesiastical court, all entire, and arched very much in the style of the Cathedral at Glasgow. There are besides, several vaults and cells, all built of fine hewn-stone. At the east end of the abbey, stand the ruins of the Abbot's first house, with only the outer walls remaining. On the west end of the abbey, stands the last house which the Abbot inhabited; in this the stair is entire from top to bottom, with several apartments regularly divided, all of free-stone.

Rent, &c.—From the above account of this parish, it may be expected that the present real rent will be very considerable.

stone. The whole building stands in the middle of eight acres of ground, commonly called the Abbot's yard, or Precinct of Crossreguill. This belongs to the chapel royal, and is let in tack to the family of Kilkerran. It is sublet to one of the tenants of the barony of Balterfan, the property of the family; in the middle of which rich and extensive barony of land this abbey stands. The above Precinct has been walled in with a very strong stone and lime wall, little of which is now remaining. This ruin is preserved with great care and attention, the tenants not being allowed to take down and use any stone from the abbey itself.

The next old building in the parish, is the house or castle of Thomaston, about half a mile to the south-east of Cullean. Tradition tells us, that this was built by a nephew of Robert Bruce, in the year 1335. It has been exceedingly strong, and of very considerable extent. It was inhabited fifty years ago, and is now become the property of the Earl of Cassillis.

Of the modern buildings in this parish, the most remarkable is Cullean castle, founded by David late Earl of Cassillis, in the year 1777. This noble edifice is situated upon a rock, projecting a little into the sea, of about 100 feet in height from the surface of the water, and almost perpendicular. The plan and design were given by the late Mr Robert Adam; and such is the style of the architecture, such the execution of the work, and the beauty of the stone, that it impresses the mind with delightful ideas of elegance, order, and magnificence, exceeding any thing similar in the country. At a proper distance from the castle, stand the stables and farm-houses; planned by the same architect, and executed upon the same large scale; all of which, with the bridge of approach to the castle, cover four acres of ground. The castle commands, from the principal apartments, a delightful prospect of the whole Frith of Clyde, with a full view of the rok of Ailsa, set down in the middle, the vessels passing to and from Clyde not far from its walls. On the land side, and immediately below the castle, are the gardens belonging to the old house of Cullean, formed out of rock, at a great expence, into three terraces; upon the walls of which are planted some of the choicest fruit trees. The remainder of the old gardens is formed into pleasure ground and gravel walks, kept with great care. Round the castle, and the adjoining buildings, lies an extensive policy of about 700 acres, interspersed with many thriving

able. The valuation of the parish, according to its present limits, is 3903 l. 18 s. Scots. The present rent is about 4000 l. Sterling yearly. The shore part of the parish, comprehending above 4000 acres, is rented from 1 s. to 8 s. *per* acre. Several farms of considerable extent, give the highest of these rents, and many others 15 s. *per* acre. The higher grounds of the parish, to the south of the post road, are rented from 4 s. to 8 s. Forty years ago, the rent of the parish was exceedingly low. Farms upon the shore, which now yield 15 s. *per* acre, did not give above 5 s. In the higher part of the parish, there is a barony, consisting of above 1100 acres, which was at that time rented at 50 l. and it now gives
280 l.

thriving plantations; the execution of which, together with a new garden and hot-houses, is carrying on with great taste and elegance. Upon these accounts, this edifice is visited with pleasure by all persons of taste, whether residing in the country or strangers.

Near to the castle, and immediately under some of the buildings, are the coves or caves of Cullean. These are six in number. Of the three towards the west, the largest has its entry as low as high water mark, the roof is about 50 feet high; and has the appearance as if two large rocks had fallen together, forming a Gothic arch, though very irregular; it extends inwards about 200 feet, and varies in breadth. It communicates with the other two, which are both considerably less, but of much the same irregular form. Towards the east are the other three coves, which likewise communicate with each other. They are nearly of the same height and figure with the former, but their extent has not been precisely ascertained. Whether these coves are natural or artificial, and if artificial, what has been their design, no tradition whatever informs us. One circumstance, however, cannot be omitted. To the largest of the three west-most coves, is a door or entry, built of free-stone, with a window three feet above the door, of the same kind of work; above both these, there is an apartment, from which might be sent down whatever could annoy the assailants of the door. This last circumstance is well known to take place in many of the old castles in the country, and seems to indicate, that at least this part of the coves has been at one period or another, the abode of some of the inhabitants of this country.

280 l. Sterling. A still greater rise has taken place in the eastern part of the parish towards Maybole. A farm consisting of 200 acres, not above half a mile from the church, was, forty years ago, let for 8 l. *per annum*, and in the fifteenth year of the present tack, it is rented at 36 l. and must rise in proportion at the expiration of this tack. Such is the state and rental of the grounds in the parish, that if peace and good order, by divine providence, be continued in our country, and the state of manufactures continue to rise, under our present happy constitution, the property of this parish must exceed in value, any in the whole district of Carrick, according to its extent.

One circumstance, however, must not be omitted, which has considerably retarded the improvement of this parish, and that is smuggling or illicit trade, which more or less has, at different times, been carried on in all the coast parishes of the country. This business was first carried on here from the Isle of Man, and afterwards to a considerable extent from France, Ostend, and Gottenburgh. It, however, received a full check, by the commutation act, and the greater attention and vigilance of his Majesty's revenue officers. Little is now done in that way, and it is to be hoped the time is fast coming, when this illicit trade will be at an end. Though the character and behaviour of those engaged in this business, were, for the most part, in other respects good; yet, without doubt, it produced very bad effects on the industry of the people, and gave them a taste for luxury and finery, that spoiled the simplicity of manners which formerly prevailed in this parish.

Coal.—Nothing is more wanted in this parish, than a greater quantity of coal. At present it is supplied from the coal works in the parish of Dailly. But the roads to these coal
works

works are equally distant and much worse, than those above mentioned to the lime. Some attempts have been made, of late, to discover coal in the parish, but without success. There was indeed a coal mine in this parish, but it was set on fire about 45 years ago, and is still burning. Several methods have been tried to extinguish the fire, but they have proved ineffectual. It has been the opinion of the best coal miners in the west of Scotland, that if no part of the coal near the fire were to be wrought for a number of years, it would of course be soon extinguished. This method has accordingly been adopted, and the fire has gradually lessened. The want of this coal has been a great loss to this parish, as it was a valuable mine, consisting of 5 seams of coal, from 6 to 15 feet thick *.

Manners.

* The dryness of the soil, the openness of the country, and the proximity of the sea, render the climate pure and salubrious. For these 40 years past, no putrid fever or flux have appeared in the parish. During the first 20 years of the above period, a fever prevailed every six or seven years, with a considerable degree of inflammation. It spread most rapidly, but, by the application of the accustomed remedies of bleeding, and taking great quantities of weak diluting drink, it was not very mortal, notwithstanding its infectious nature. During the above period, the small pox prevailed at times without inoculation, and, when introduced into the parish, few families escaped. In some, the disease was exceedingly fatal; but it cannot be ascertained from the register how many died of it annually. The stopping, or croup, a disease frequent on the sea coast, never once made its appearance here, during the above mentioned period. The measles and chincough have always been very favourable. During the last 20 years, the fevers have taken a considerable change. They are now, generally, of the slow nervous kind, and when introduced into the parish, are by no means very prevalent or mortal. This, in part, may be owing to the improved habitation of the farmers. Formerly these were small, and all the sick of the family crowded into one place, and kept so close as to prevent the proper circulation of air. This change in the fevers may also have been caused, by the great increase of the

Manners.—There has been no great influx of strangers into this parish, for these forty years past, till within these five years, when a considerable number of sober and industrious farmers, tempted with the dryness of the soil, and, as they thought, the cheapness of the ground, came from the other parts of the country, and settled here. The native inhabitants have, from the beginning of the above period, in general, maintained a character of great plainness and simplicity of manners, a strong attachment to the established religion of the country, and an uniform and decent regard to the ordinances thereof, both at home and in the neighbouring parishes. No doubt, that refinement in the manner of living and dress, which has taken place throughout the country, prevails also here. Owing, perhaps, to the prevalence of smuggling, this took place here earlier than in the neighbouring parishes. Persons engaged in that trade, found it necessary to go abroad, and enter into business with foreign merchants; and by dealing in tea, spirits, and silks, brought home to their families and friends, the means of greater luxury and finery, and at the cheapest rate. Persons of this description, being also obliged to enter much into society, in their own country, thereby acquired a turn for hospitality and entertainment at home. The other parts of the parish, from the improved state of their farms, were both desirous and able, in some degree, to follow the example of their neighbours. But amidst all this, they have preserved the sobriety of manners, and the decency of the Christian character; for during the whole of the above period,

use of sugar and tea, which are now mostly in every farmer's family. Inoculation has in the same period taken place, and now almost universally prevails. Though the frosts are not very long or severe, yet it has been observed, that three or four weeks have been followed with pleurifies, which have attacked the poor, and have been generally mortal.

period, there has been only one tried by the justiciary, for violently beating a man in his own house; and such were the alleviating circumstances of the case, that the pannel was only punished with a few weeks imprisonment. It may not be improper to compare with this, the state of morals in this parish about 180 years ago. It appears, from the register formerly mentioned, that from 1610, to 1620, the most flagrant violations of the Sabbath took place. It was, in frequent instances, proved before the session, that persons were guilty of fishing, and selling their fish openly in Maybole market; that others winnowed their corn, and gave no reason for so doing, but that the wind was favourable; that others openly washed and dried their cloaths; and that others were guilty of tuellying, as it is called, or fighting to the effusion of blood, in the church-yard, in the time of divine service. So frequent at that period was the vice of drunkenness, even on the Sabbath, that we find the session enacting, that no inn-keeper should sell on that day, more than two pints of ale to a company of three persons. It further appears, from the same register, that the vice of adultery was also very frequent. It would seem, however, that the morals of the people after the year 1630, improved to a considerable degree, and continued to improve long after 1640, when, as we have mentioned, the solemn league and covenant was signed in this parish.

Poor.—The number of poor has of late years greatly increased. Forty years ago, the number of monthly pensioners upon the roll, was only seven. At present, the number is 21, who receive from 1 s. 6 d. to 3 s. every month. These distributions are under the management of the minister and kirk-session. At two other times of the year, immediately after the communion, and at new year's day, they distribute to
above

above 40 persons, to the amount of above 81. Sterling at each time. These two large distributions, are intended to enable the poor to purchase shoes and coals, and to pay their house rent, which articles are now become much more expensive than they were formerly. The funds for all this arise almost wholly from the collections at the church door, from collections at private baptisms and marriages, in whatever part of the parish they are celebrated, and also from the private charities of the rich, who, to their praise, do, in times of scarcity, liberally contribute to this humane purpose. But if the poor of the parish have greatly increased, so these funds have to a proportionable degree also increased. The session has not, therefore, been yet obliged to make application to non-residing heritors; and it has been, and is the determined purpose of all concerned in the management of the poor, to keep at the utmost distance from legal operation in their supply. No doubt this can be more easily done in a parish like this, where there are no populous towns or villages, or numbers of manufacturing people. The voluntary contributions would, however, be much greater, were it not for the great number of Irish vagrants and beggars, who daily travel the great post road from Ayr to Port Patrick; near to which, on both sides, stands the greater number of the farmers houses; which are oppressed by the importunate and violent cravings of these beggars. It were to be wished that the police of the country would remedy this evil,

N U M B E R XXXIV.

PARISH OF INVERKEITHING.

(Presbytery of Dunfermline.—County and Synod of Fife.)

By the Reverend Mr ANDREW ROBERTSON, Minister.

Name, Situation, and Extent.

INVERKEITHING, or Innerkeithing, is supposed to be derived from the Gaelic word Inver or Inner, which signifies the Mouth, and Keith, said to be the name of the running water at the east end of the town. It is of a very irregular figure. The North Ferry hills form a peninsula; the west part, formerly the parish of Rosyth, extends about three miles, and the north part about three miles and an half, from the town. These resemble two arms stretched out almost at right angles, and each of them does not much exceed a mile in breadth; the one lies between the Frith and the parish of Dunfermline, and the other between Dunfermline and Dalgety parishes.

Town, Constitution of the Burgh, &c.—Inverkeithing is pleasantly situated upon a rising ground above the bay of the harbour; it consists of one street, with another smaller turning off near the middle, besides some wynds. It has many good gardens. It is a very ancient royal burgh. King William, surnamed the Lyon, gave them the first charter. Several

veral Kings of Scotland granted them charters at different periods; and King James the VI. by a charter, dated 4th May 1598, ratifies and confirms them all, and declares their rights and privileges, to extend from the water of Dovan to that of Leven, and as far north as Kinrofs. It is said to have been a very considerable burgh, of large extent, populous, and paid to government great taxes. The set of this burgh is uncommon in some things. The provost, the two bailies, the dean of guild, and treasurer, are annually elected by the counsellors and deacons of the trades. The counsellors are chosen from among the burghers inhabitants, the guildry, and even the members of the incorporated trades, who still retain a vote in their respective incorporations. The five incorporated trades elect their deacons yearly as their representatives. The town council, including the magistrates, cannot be under 20; but it is not limited to any number above it; so that the whole burghers inhabitants might be made counsellors. What is very singular, the counsellors continue in office during life and residence. There is a good town-house, built in the year 1770, containing, besides a prison, some convenient rooms for holding the bailie-courts, the meetings of council, and public entertainments. The yearly revenue amounts to 200 l. Sterling and upwards; many of their extensive rights and dues have been sold and disposed of at different times. The streets were once lighted with lamps during the winter seasons; but this has been discontinued for a long time. The present magistrates are very attentive and active in making improvements, and doing whatever is in their power for the advantage and convenience of the inhabitants. There are several markets or fairs in the year for horses, cattle, and different kind of goods, such as coarse linens, checks, shoes, &c. This burgh is represented
in

in Parliament, and sends a member along with Queensferry, Stirling, Culrofs, and Dunfermline.

Population, &c.—The population, by an accurate survey in the beginning of the present year 1793, amounts to,

Souls,	-	-	-	-	-	2210
The return to Dr Webster in 1755 was	-	-	-	-	-	1694
						<hr/>
Increase	-	-	-	-	-	516
						<hr/>
In the town	-	1330	Between 10 and 20			362
In the North Ferry		312	— 20 and 50			932
In the country parish		568	— 50 and 70			306
Number of males		1056	— 70 and above			30
— of females		1154	The number of families			
Under 10 years of age		580	is about	-		550

Many have arrived at advanced periods of life. There are several persons here between 80 and 90, and some of them going about their ordinary business. There is a man living here, but mostly confined to his bed, whose age, from authentic accounts, is 94: He was by trade a gardener, and has had five wives. The annual average of births from the parish records is about 50, and of marriages 15. There is no register of deaths kept here. The number of births and marriages cannot be exactly ascertained, as there are many dissenters from the established church, who do not insert their names in the parish register. The population has greatly increased within these few years, owing to the flourishing state of the coal trade brought from Halbeath and shipped here, to a considerable distillery and brewery in the neighbourhood of the town, and a branch of the iron foundry business lately introduced.

Proprietors

Proprietors and Value.—The parish belongs to the Earls of Hopetoun and Morton, Sir William Erskine and Sir John Henderson, Mr Cunningham and a few small heritors. The last gentleman is the only one of any consequence residing in it. The valued rent in the cess books is 6956 l. 16 s. 8 d. Scots. The real rent amounts to near about 3000 l. Sterling, and upon new leases would rise considerably above it.

Appearance, Soil, and Agriculture.—The parish, in general, excepting the Ferry hills, and a few others, is either flat or gently rising ground, the greatest part of which is strong, rich, or clay soil, and yields plentiful crops; even among these hills many places are arable, and produce moderately good crops. Towards the extremity, upon the north, the soil is cold, and a small part is muir. Some of the farms are extensive, and others of an ordinary size. The farmers are, in general, wealthy, industrious, and active: They improve and cultivate their lands to great perfection and advantage: They mostly use the new constructed ploughs, drawn by two good horses without a driver: They manure and enrich their field with dung, lime, and earth, mixed together, with seaweed, when they can obtain it, and by summer fallow. From the goodness of the ground, and the most proper mode and means of cultivation, they raise grain of all kinds, equal in quantity and quality to many parts in Scotland. The farms are not yet all inclosed and properly fenced; but, from the disposition of the proprietors, and the improvements now carrying on in that way, it is expected this will soon be the case. There is a society formed here, called the Farmer Club, the members of it belong also to most of the neighbouring parishes, and several gentlemen of landed property have joined and patronise it. The great object of it is to consider and improve the different modes of agriculture. At stated meetings

meetings they have ploughing matches ; the competitors are their servants, each man takes his ridge. When the work is done, it is examined by proper judges, and a suitable premium is given to the best, and two or three more of the ploughmen. This practice has been attended with very beneficial effects.

Harbour, Shipping, and Ferry.—Before the entrance of the harbour, there is a large and safe bay, which affords excellent shelter for ships in all winds. Here his Majesty's ships of war sometimes come from Leith roads, and ride at anchor to avoid the winter storms ; and merchant ships from the Mediterranean formerly used to perform quarantine here. The harbour itself is a small bay ; at the mouth of which, upon the west side, there lies a large Dutch built vessel as a lazaretto, where, instead of detaining ships from foreign ports, the particular goods, in which any infection may be supposed to lodge, are immediately received, aired under the inspection of a proper officer, and delivered, within a limited time, to the owners, by the express orders of the custom-house. At the head of the bay is the quay, the proper place for landing and receiving goods. The depth of water at spring tides is 13 and sometimes 15 feet. It was deepened within these few years ; and a narrow channel cut farther down to admit ships up to it. This is kept pretty clear by the rivulet that runs through it at low tide. Another quay is now building, with great improvements, to accommodate the shipping. There are here sometimes between 40 and 50 vessels from different places waiting for coals, especially in the winter season. Several ships belong to this place ; but none of any considerable burden. Some of them sail to foreign ports, and the rest are chiefly employed in the coal and coasting trade. Between the North Ferry and Ro-

fyth Castle is St. Margaret's Bay or Hope, so called from the Princess of that name, afterwards Queen of Malcolm III. having in her flight from England landed there. On her account, the Ferry is called the Queensferry, being her constant passage to and from her favourite residence at Dunfermline. This passage is well known to every traveller; the distance is near two miles. All the boatmen reside in the North Ferry. There are four boats and four yawls employed upon it; these belong to certain proprietors of land on each side of the Frith, who claim an exclusive right to the passage, and for which the tacksmen, besides keeping the boats in repair, pay annually about 280*l.* Sterling. The common freight is by far too low, being only a penny each passenger. There are several landing places on each side, and it is proposed to build more. This passage is safe and expeditious, and may be had at all times, excepting in a very few cases; and this only happens from high winds, together with particular and unfavourable times of the tide. There was a large boat overset some years ago, occasioned by a sudden squall, and its being fully loaded with black cattle; the boatmen were lost, and also the passengers. Upon the western boundary of the parish, is a small harbour, called Brucehaven; ships sometimes take in coals, but no other trade is carried on there.

Manufactures and Trade.—There is but little trade carried on here. Some small merchants, for the most part, supply the inhabitants with necessary articles; and there is a near and easy access to Dunfermline and Edinburgh. This is a very convenient situation for ship-builders. Some time ago, they met with great encouragement, but at present there is little doing in that line. A considerable whisky distillery is erected here: It belongs to a Company, and is managed by one

of the partners. The spirits are said to be of a fine, and even superior quality ; they are sold at the common current prices ; and the sale of them is very extensive. It seems to be in a prosperous and flourishing state. There is likewise a brewery, carried on to no great extent, and serving chiefly for the consumption of the inhabitants. There is a Company who import annually from the Baltic large quantities of wood ; they have extensive and rapid sales, and are very successful in that trade. The coal shipped here is by far the greatest article of trade. The coallery is at Halbeath, in the parish of Dunfermline : It once belonged to a Dutch Company ; but, being attended with no advantage, they disposed of it. It is now worked by a Company of our own countrymen, who carry it on with spirit, and have brought it to a flourishing state. There is a proper waggon road laid with timber, for the distance of five miles, and kept in good repair at a great expence. Twenty-four waggons are employed ; they are drawn, some by one and others by two horses, and bring down two tons each time. The coals are good, burn well, and have great heat and force ; they are sold at 15 s. *per* waggon, the great coal ; and 11 s. 6 d. the chows or small coal : The burghers inhabitants buy them, by a particular agreement, at a cheaper rate. Twenty-five thousand tons and upwards are shipped annually ; the demand is greater than can be answered ; and ships frequently wait 5 and 6 weeks. There are a few salt-pans that make annually from twelve to fifteen thousand bushels. An iron foundery was lately set up. Several experienced workmen are employed in it : They make beautiful chimney grates, waggon wheels, and all kind of cast iron work for machinery and house utensils. This seems to be a convenient and advantageous situation ; the metal can be brought by sea ; it is near to coal ; and the manufactured goods can be transported ve-

ry cheap, and in small quantities, by means of the coal ships, to many parts in Scotland, and by the vicinity to Leith, to any foreign port. There is a branch of the Borrowtounness custom-house established here for the convenience of the coasting trade carried on from this port, and from St. Davids, the property of Sir John Henderson, Baronet, of Fordel, and the shipping place of his great coal works.

Ecclesiastical State, School, &c.—Sir William Erskine, Baronet, of Torry, is the patron, having lately purchased the estate of Spencerfield, to which is annexed the right of patronage. The church was repaired and partly rebuilt within these 20 years. It is large enough to contain the parishioners. It is a little singular in outward appearance, being covered with three roofs of equal dimensions, which are supported by two rows of arches within, and the two side walls. It could easily be made a handsome, commodious, and elegant church. Upon the west side, adjoining to it, is the steeple, which seems to be very ancient, from the appearance of the stones and the form of the building. The stipend at present consists of 5 chalders victual, and 500. marks Scots, besides 4 l. Sterling, of what is called vicarage. The free teinds are considerable: There has been no augmentation since the year 1636, and a process is now carrying on for that purpose. There is no manse or garden, but an allowance for house rent is paid by the town and some of the heritors. A small house and garden at Rosyth goes by that name. There are two glebes and a small park by itself, making in all eight acres of excellent ground. The one is the glebe of Rosyth, which was annexed to this parish, and lies adjacent to that old church now in ruins; but it is proposed to have it exchanged and placed with the other, which is near the town.

There

There is a tolerable schoolhouse, with a sufficient garden. The present schoolmaster *, who is a very good scholar, has been here upwards of 40 years; he draws an annual salary of 200 merks Scots, paid by the town and heritors. He is also precentor and session clerk, for which he receives 281. Scots, with the ordinary emoluments and dues belonging to that office. He teaches, besides the common branches of education, the languages, navigation, and the other parts of mathematics. The number of scholars is about 50, being commonly 40 in summer and 60 in winter. There are several private teachers besides. The school wages are too low, and by no means adequate to the teachers abilities and labours; although as much as can be well afforded by the poor part of the inhabitants. The number of poor receiving public charity, is not considerable. Their funds were much diminished by the failure of a person who had their money in his hands; and they now chiefly arise from the weekly collections at the church doors, which at present answer the demands.

Religious Persuasions.—Rather more than the half of the inhabitants in the town and parish adhere to the established church; the rest are Burghers, Antiburgers, Relief, and Cameronians. A Burgher meeting house was built here about 40 years ago, occasioned by the settlement of the late incumbent, who, it seems, though a most worthy and respectable character, was disagreeable to a great number of the parishioners; it is mostly attended by the lowest part of the people, and many of them come from the neighbouring parishes. The Antiburgers and Relief are not numerous, and attend their meeting houses in Dunfermline. The Cameronians,

* Mr Robert Duncan, translator of Boethius on the Consolation of Philosophy.

meronians, in this place, took their rise, a few years ago, from a difference among the Burghers, many of whom, along with their minister, at that time, joined themselves with this sect: They have no proper meeting house, and are occasionally supplied with sermons, though but seldom, by their itinerant preachers. It is remarkable, that all these differences arose about church politics, they are maintained and kept up with the same spirit and zeal, and the leaders of each sect use the utmost endeavours to retain their adherents and followers, which, among such a class of hearers, are frequently attended with considerable success.

Eminent Men.—This parish has given birth to several persons who have distinguished themselves in their professional line. Commodore Roxburgh, born in this town, was promoted to that rank in the Russian service, and was very active and attentive to its interests before he quitted it. The famous Admiral Greig was a native of this town, was educated under the present schoolmaster, and went, at an early period of life, into the British service. While in the navy of Great Britain, he distinguished himself at the defeat of Conflans by Admiral Hawke, the taking of the Havannah, and several other engagements in that successful war. After the peace of 1762, he entered into the Russian service; and there, at the battle of Chio, contributed principally, by his advice and exertions, to the destruction of the whole Turkish fleet. Sensible of his great professional merit, her Imperial Majesty promoted him (though a foreigner) to the chief command of the Russian navy, which he raised to a degree of respectability and importance it never before had attained. In reward of his great services, the Empress bestowed on him many honourable marks of distinction, and an estate in Livonia which his family now enjoy. In the last war, between the Russians and

and Turks, which last were joined by the Swedes, he, in the Baltic, defeated the Swedish fleet, and had not a part of his squadron, through cowardice, refused to come into action, he probably had captured or sunk the most of them. Soon after this, he was seized with a fever, and died at Revel, on the 26th October 1788. He was no less illustrious for courage and naval skill, than for piety, benevolence, and every private virtue *.

Character.

* *Antiquities.*—Upon the top of Lethem hill, there are some large stones, placed in a circular form, said to have been a Druidical temple. King David the I. frequently resided in this place. Some persons remember to have seen the ruins of a house at the north end of the town, which commonly went by the name of King David's House, but there remains not the smallest vestige. At the North Ferry, there are the ruins of a chapel, which was liberally endowed by King Robert the I. and served by the Monks of Dunfermline. The Franciscans and the Dominicans, or the black and grey Friars, had both of them convents in this town. There is a house called the Inns, which still has peculiar privileges and exemptions, not being within the jurisdiction of the magistrates, and appears to have been one of them, from its form, vaults, high garden walls, and other buildings. Towards the north part of the parish, there is a stone set up about 10 feet high, $2\frac{1}{2}$ broad, and 1 thick, commonly called the standing stone. Many rude figures seems to have been cut upon it, but are much defaced by the weather and length of time; however, two armed men on horseback, the one behind the other, appear pretty discernible on the east side. It is supposed, that after some battle between the Scots and Danes, fought near this place, some Dane of distinction had fallen, and been buried there, and this stone, as was then very commonly done, raised as a monument over his grave. In this parish is the castle of Rosyth, almost opposite to Hopeton House; it is built upon rock, and surrounded by the sea at full tide; it consists of a large square tower, and some low ruinous walls adjoining to it, but there is the appearance of larger and more extended buildings. It cannot now be ascertained by whom it was built, or at what time. Above a door, upon the north side, there is a coat of arms with a cross, a crown, &c. and M. R. 1561. Upon the stone bars of windows in the square tower, there is T. * S. and M.

Character.—The people in general are sober, industrious, and attentive; they follow their several employments with assiduity and care, and earn a comfortable livelihood for themselves and families. They seem to be contented and happy with their situation in life. The better sort are kind and hospitable, diligent and active in prosecuting their business and pursuits, and are much given to company and entertainments in each others houses, but it is to be remarked, that the parties, who associate much, are united in the same political sentiments and views. Burgh politics, and the election of members of parliament, have an unhappy influence upon the morals of the people. They carry on these contests with the greatest animosity and keenness, and exert their utmost endeavours to promote the interest and cause of the favourite candidate.

M. * N. anno 1639. Upon the south side, near the door, is this inscription, pretty entire and legible,

IN DEV TIME DRAV YIS CORD YE BEL TO CLINK
QVHAIS MERY VOCE VARNIS TO MEAT & DRINK.

This castle was the ancient seat of the Stuarts of Rosyth, lineally descended from James Stuart, brother german to Walter the great Stuart of Scotland, and father to King Robert. The last laird of that name, having no near relations, disposed of the estate to a stranger; it afterwards became the possession of Lord Roseberry; and is now the property of the Earl of Hopeton. There is a tradition, however unfounded it may be, that Oliver Cromwell's mother, being a daughter of the family of Stuart of Rosyth, was born in this castle, and that the protector visited it, during the time he commanded the army in Scotland. It is said, there is a record in the Advocate's Library at Edinburgh, which gives an account of the struggle, the ancient Culdees maintained for their rights, lands, &c. which contains also the censure pronounced against them by the Romish clergy, in these words: *Acta in ecclesia parochiali de Innerkethyn, anno secundo regni regis Alexandri, gratiae anno 1250, &c.* and mentions the probability that this severe procedure and sentence obliged them to submit to the bishop of St. Andrew's, who by degrees suppressed their order, and established the Popish Clergy in their place.

candidate. It is much to be lamented, that religion is made subservient to these purposes, and the settlement of its ministers connected with the politics and the factions of the burgh. Here the inhabitants have supported or opposed, according as the promotion of the person was suitable or inimical to their political views; and they now stand distinguished in the records of the church, for two successive oppositions, in the last of which, and that but lately, many of the people declared against their political leaders, and would no longer obey their unreasonable and unchristian orders. However, upon the whole, the people, with a few exceptions, are religious and devout, peaceable and useful members of society, and attached to their king and country, its civil constitution, and its mild, equitable, and salutary laws.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The situation of this parish is healthy and cheerful: There are no diseases peculiar to it, the small-pox raged last summer with great violence, and carried off great numbers of children. Inoculation is much neglected by the lower sort of the people, and many of them have an insuperable prejudice and aversion against the practice of it. Provisions of all kinds are good and plenty, but some of them dearer than in Edinburgh. The roads are well made: There is a toll bar, a mile from the North Ferry, the produce of which, with the commuted statute labour, keeps them in good repair. Near the North Ferry, there are large quarries; the stone is very hard and durable, and generally dug out in perpendicular rows. Some time ago great quantities were prepared and shipped, to pave the streets of London, but none has been carried there for some years. The Frith gradually contracts from Kinghorn; here the shore, which is high and rocky, suddenly stretches out towards the south, and brings it within a narrow compass. The water is deep, and the tides rapid, owing to the wideness and length

of the Frith above. There was a battery erected, upon this point of land to the east of the Ferry, after Paul Jones appeared, with his small squadron, and alarmed the coasts. There is a higher and a lower battery, mounting, together, 8 iron guns, 20 pounders, and 8 field pieces. In the middle of the Frith, and right opposite, stands Inch-Garvie, the old fortifications of which were repaired at that time; and 4 iron guns, 20 pounders, mounted upon them. Each gun has 100 rounds of amunition. One man belonging to the corps of artillery lives here, to notice the works, and take care of the stores. There is no account of any remarkable battle within the parish. There was a small skirmish upon the Ferry hills, between the Scots and English in Oliver Cromwell's time. The great and severe engagement upon the following day, which was maintained with so much obstinacy and slaughter on both sides, and terminated in the defeat of the Scots, was indeed begun near this town, upon a place called Hillfield; but the Scots retreating, it was chiefly fought upon the opposite bank of Masterton, which, though not far distant, lies in the parish of Dunfermline. Upon the top of the Ferry hills the prospect is beautiful, extensive, and picturesque to the highest degree. There is a view from the Island of May to Stirling, and far beyond it, of a rich country diversified with towns, villages, castles, and noblemen's and gentlemen's seats, and bounded by the distant hills, with numerous objects, and variegated scenes on each side; the coasts of Lothian and Fife, with their fertile fields; the several little islands of Garvie, Comb, Cramond, and Keith; ships sailing in all directions, and some of them lying at anchor in Leith Roads and other places; and to complete the whole, there is a magnificent view of Edinburgh, its majestic castle and lofty buildings, together with the New Town, which is perhaps one of the most handsome and elegant in Europe.

✎ The

✱ The following additional particulars were received since the preceding account went to the press.

In the grounds of *Castland Hill*, the property of the Earl of MORTON, a lead mine was accidentally discovered about 30 years ago. The ore is said to have been of an extraordinary fine quality. The stratum was found to be very irregular, and of unequal thickness. After being wrought for some time, it totally disappeared. A considerable sum was expended, and the working of it attended with some loss. It is, however, thought, that there is plenty of lead ore in these lands, and that it might be wrought out to great advantage.

In the beginning of last winter, a considerable shoal of herrings came into this bay; and, about the North Ferry, they were caught in great quantities, and the fishing continued for a long time. In the beginning of this winter, there came a still greater shoal, extending all the way from *Inch-Comb* to *Inch-Garvie*. A great number of boats, from the east coasts of Fife, well manned, and supplied with proper nets, are now employed in this herring fishing, and meet with ample success. The herrings are pretty large, and very good. They are sold at different prices, and sometimes so very low as 6 d. *per* hundred. They are carried to Edinburgh, and many other places, in a fresh state. Some merchants have sent up several vessels to take them in, properly salted in barrels; and, it is said, propose to send them to the London and foreign markets. They still continue * in the greatest plenty, and may probably do so during a great part of the winter season. Some young *whales*, one of which has been caught, disturb the fishing, and sometimes destroy the nets.

In

* December 9th, 1793.

In this town, there is a *tan-work*. The situation is convenient for carrying on that business. The raw hides can be got in great quantities, this being the market where the adjacent parts of the country and the shipping, both in this and the neighbouring ports, are supplied with provisions. The present work is but small; the leather made is said to be of an ordinary quality, and meets with a ready sale.

NUM-

NUMBER XXXV.

PARISH OF CAMPBELTON.

*(County and Synod of Argyll.—Presbytery of Kintyre.)**By the Reverend Dr JOHN SMITH, Minister.*

Origin of the Name.

THE parish of Campbelton is the seat of the presbytery of Kintyre, which is sometimes, but improperly, spelt *Cantyre*. The name of the parish is not older than the beginning of the present century, when the town, which makes a part of it, was created a burgh, and called CAMPBELTON, from the family name of the Duke of Argyll, the principal proprietor of the town and neighbourhood. For some time before that period, it went by the name of *Ceann-loch*, (*Loch-head*), which it still retains in the language of the country, and sometimes by the name of *Kilkerran*, one of the four ancient parishes united in the last century into one. But the oldest name of Campbelton, by which a part of it is still known, is *Dalruadbain*, from its having been the capital of the ancient Scottish or Dalreudinian kingdom, as will afterwards be noticed.

Extent.—The parish of Campbelton consists of a large section of the peninsula of Kintyre. Its length, from north to south,

south, is *computed* * to be 11 miles; its breadth at the north end about 6, and at the south end about 10. It is narrowed about the middle, where the two seas verge towards one another; the bay of Machir-hanith running in, a considerable way on the one side, and the loch of Kilkerran, or harbour of Campbelton, on the other. The space between the two is occupied by a large plain, of about 4 miles in length and 3 in breadth, and not above 40 feet above the level of the sea.

Soil.—This plain consists partly of sand covered with bent, and a thin but fine pile of grass; partly of arable and marsh, of which some has been drained; but principally of moss, some of which has been, and more may yet be, improved. Both ends of the parish, to the north and south of this flat, are hilly, rising gradually to 1000 or 1200 feet above the level of the sea. The skirts of the hills, and some valleys near their summits, are cultivated; but the surface is in general covered with heath. The soil is of various kinds, deep or shallow, according to its altitude or declension, and much of it wet or spouty. In general, however, the arable land is light and warm, and, when compared with other parts of the Highlands, may be called fertile.

Climate and Diseases.—The climate is mild, but the air is often moist. We have frequent rains, little frost, and seldom any snow. The frost is not often so intense as to sink the thermometer 8 degrees below Fahrenheit's freezing point. The people have few diseases, except the rheumatism, which is ascribed to the moisture of the atmosphere, and putrid fevers, which often visit the inhabitants in spring, in common

* For the exact measurement, we must refer to a map of Argyllshire, about to be published by Mr Langlands, Land-surveyor to the Duke of Argyll.

mon with other parts of the Highlands ; owing, no doubt, to the poor manner, in which the greater part of the inhabitants live, during the winter season. Consumptions too, and asthmatic complaints, are not unfrequent ; and it is to be feared, that we must soon be compelled to invent a name in Gaelic for the palsy. Were the people able to pay more attention to their dress, their diet, and their dwellings, their ailments would probably decrease, as their constitutions are generally good, and the climate abundantly healthy.

Civil History *.—This country, like the rest of Britain, was peopled at first by the Celtic tribes. But as one wave impels another, so succeeding hords seem to have driven the first settlers in this island, to Ireland and the adjacent isles, till a superabundance of population there, made them recoil on the tribes whom they had left behind them.

The earliest classical mention of this country is to be found in Ptolomy, who seems to have considered the peninsula of Kintyre and Knapdale, as united to the islands of Ilay and Jura ; forming the territory, which he calls *Epidium*. probably from a similar Celtic word, which signifies *the isle of the Picts* ; for, at that time, the Picts were the principal inhabitants of those parts, where they remained till the year 210 of the Christian aera ; when, in their turn, they were driven in considerable numbers to Ireland, as we learn from the Pictish Chronicle.

Some time after, (according to Father Innes and others, in the year 258,) a large colony of the ancient Celtic inhabitants

* The parish of Campbelton being the *Cradle* of the *Scottish Monarchy*, the reader will probably be desirous of having a fuller account of its ancient state, than is usual in these statistical papers. The public, therefore, must feel itself indebted to Dr SMITH, for the pains he has taken to elucidate that subject.

tants returned from Ireland, during the commotions which took place in that country, under the reign of Corinac O'Cuin, and effected a settlement in the southern parts of the Pictish dominions, from which they had formerly been expelled; namely, in Kintyre and Argyll *. This colony was conducted by *Reuda*, (as Bede calls him) or *Cairbre Ruadh*, son of Conar II. King of Ireland, as he is stiled in the Irish annals, and in the ancient poems, which celebrate his valour. The family of Fingal, who had established their little kingdom in the inland district, which still retains the name of *Morven*, seem to have disputed the sovereignty of the country with *Cairbre* or *Cairbar*. But the death of *Oscar*, the son of *Ossian*, who fell by the hands of *Cairbar* †, decided the dispute in favour of the latter. From this, *Cairbre Ruadh*, or *Red-haired Cairbar*, Kintyre and the adjacent country got, and long retained, the name of *Dal-ruaidh*, or *the portion of Ruadh*; and hence the people got the name of *Dalruaidhini*, which was softened or corrupted by the writers of the Latin into *Dalreudd*, *Dalriadd*, and *Dalreudini*.

The same people are, by Ammianus Marcellinus, by the author of the *Notitia Imperii*, and by other writers of the 4th and 5th centuries, called *Scotti* and *Atacotti*; the first, an appellation which they carried with them from Ireland, the *Scotia* or Scotland of that period; the latter, probably given them by the Romans, from hearing their country called *Atascotti*, the place or territory of the Scots.

About the middle of the 5th century, (according to Gildas in 446,) the Scots were again driven back to Ireland, where they remained till 503, when they returned under the conduct

* A district of the county so called.

† See OSSIAN's Poem of TEMORA, in which the Poet tenderly laments the death of his son by Cairbar.

duct of the three sons of Erc, called Lorn, Angus, and Fergus; who became the second founders of the kingdom of the Scots, or, as they were still called, *Dalruaidhini*. At that time the sons of Erc must have been far advanced in life, for they had all got the benediction of St. Patrick, who died in 442. Angus seems to have died soon after his arrival in this country, for we hear no more of him. In the division of the country, Ilay probably fell to his share; as, after his death, we find it possessed by his son Murdach, whose widow Erca, the daughter of Lorn, was afterwards married to his cousin-german, the son of Conal of Ireland, to whom she bore Felim, the father of St. Columba, the Apostle of the Highlands.

Of the main land, Lorn took the northern division, which still retains his name; and Fergus the southern, or Kintyre and Argyll. Lorn dying in a short time, Fergus added his brother's territory to his own, and so became sole monarch of the Scots or Dalruaidhini; and he has stood ever since at the head of our list of Scottish Kings. From the Irish sea, his territory extended northward to Drumalbin, or Tyn-drum; and was bounded on the east by the kingdom of the Britons of Strath-Clyde, whose capital (while the kingdom existed) was A cluith or Balclutha, now Dumbarton, a corruption of Dun-Briton. On the north it was bounded by the kingdom of the Picts, whose capital at that time was Inverness.

As the Dalreudinian Kings of the line of Fergus, had, for some centuries, their residence in this parish, where they were surrounded by the most fertile tract they were possessed of, and where they had the safest and most commodious harbour, in their whole territory, for their fleet, it may perhaps be expected, in a history of this parish, that some brief account should be given of them; and that so many Kings should not

be passed over in silence, when the title of KING is so justly respected and beloved. Besides, although these Kings lived in Dalruadhain, or Campbelton, yet their history claims, in a particular manner, the reader's attention; as it is, in fact, the history of the Scottish kingdom in general, of which this parish was the cradle.

FERGUS, as already mentioned, began his reign in conjunction with Lorn, and probably with Angus, in 503. In a few years, he was succeeded by his son Domangard, who, in 4 or 5 years, left the kingdom to Congal, one of his sons by Fedelina, daughter of Brian M'Achy, King of Ireland. After a long reign, his brother Gauran succeeded him, according to the annals of Ulster, in 544, and lived till 560, when his nephew, Conal I. ascended the throne, and reigned till 575, a year fatal also to his son Doncha, who fell in the battle of Loro in Kintyre, in which he contended with his cousin Aidan, the Son of Gauran, for the succession to the kingdom.

The fortune of the day gave it in favour of Aidan, (or *Aedhan M'Gauran*, as he is called in our tales *). Of all the
Dal-

* It is remarkable that, in so rude an age, Aidan was not satisfied with the title which he had got to the kingdom by the sword, without being also anointed by St. Columba. The saint, who had more favour for his brother *Eoghan*, delayed, for a considerable time, the ceremony of the unction, till, at length, for two or three nights successively, a supernatural agent, it is said, appeared to him in a vision, and charged him to perform his office; and, as he still delayed, he gave him at last a blow on the side, of which he retained the mark ever after; adding, at the same time, a menace of repeating the correction if he should put off the business any longer. The saint, it should seem, did not chuse to run the hazard of having the threatening executed. He anointed Aidan King, and zealously supported his interest ever after; for when Aidan was to fight a battle, the monks of Jona were convened to pray for his success.

Dalruadhain Kings, Aidan was the most renowned. He carried his victorious arms from Ireland, where he fought many battles, to the Isle of Man, where he also conquered; and at length to Northumberland, where, however, his former good fortune failed him. In 605 he died; and was buried, according to Fordun, in Kilkerran, the burying place of this parish.

Of Aidan's many sons, the greater part seem to have fallen the victims of his battles. Accordingly, one of the youngest of them, *Eochan Bui*, (yellow haired *Hector*) was his successor; who, after a reign of 16 or 17 years, left the throne to *Conchar Ciar*, the son of Conal, who had already given many proofs of his valour in fighting against the Picts and Irish. In 622, he was succeeded by his son Ferchar I. who left the throne to *Donal Brec*, son of Eochan Bui, and grandson of Aidan. This prince was often in the field, but seldom or never victorious. In the battle of Moy-roth in Ireland, (in the year 637) he was defeated with great loss; and the next year had the same bad fortune in the battle of Glen-murefan. In 642, he was killed at Fraith-Cairven, as he fought with Hoan, King of the Britons.

The Dalruadhain, or Scottish kingdom, greatly weakened by the wars and bad fortune of Donal Brec, passed afterwards through the hands of Conal II. Dugal, Donal II. and Malduine, descendants of Eochan Bui; but in that declining state, which is so bitterly lamented by Adomnan, towards the end of the 7th century.

Accordingly the house of Lorn, whose claims lay dormant for many generations, found now a favourable opportunity of disputing with the house of Fergus the right to the throne, and of beginning those wars which, with various success, served for a long time to weaken both houses, and, of course, to hurt the general interests of the kingdom.

According

According to the genealogy of the book of Lecan, Ferchar Fada, the successor of Malduine, was of the house of Lorn. But his successor, Achy Rineval, grandson of Donal Brec, was of the Fergusian or Cantirian line, and held the unsteady sceptre only 2 or 3 years, when it was seized by *Anchellach*, son of *Ferchar Fada*. But he had scarce got hold of it, when it was wrested from him by his own brother Selvac, who seized the King, (after having burned his palace of Dunolly) and sent him in chains to Ireland. From thence he returned; after 12 years, with some assistance which he had procured, and, in attempting to recover his kingdom, fell in the battle of Finglirn, a small valley in the mountains of Lorn.

These domestic quarrels of the house of Lorn, gave the family of Fergus some time to recover. Accordingly, we find in the same year (718), *Doncha Beg*, (or *Little Duncan*) who is stiled only King of Kintyre, disputing the sovereignty with Selvac, and defeating him in a desperate sea engagement; which was fought off Ardineffe, a cape or promontory of Argyll, that has now lost its ancient name. Doncha died in 720, but Achy, (probably his son,) and the grandson of Donal Duine, continued the contest with Selvac for 5 or 6 years longer; till, in 726, he prevailed so far as to obtain a division of the district of Argyll, which lay between Kintyre and Lorn, and was often the subject of contention, when neither house could entirely subdue the other. In 729, Selvac died, and Achy succeeded, as it would seem, to the whole kingdom, for he is stiled, by Tighearnach, *Rex Dalriadd*, or King of Dalruaidh. After his death, which is placed in 733, the succession is not clear. The two houses, as formerly in the case of Fergus and Lorn, and, lately of Selvac and Duncan, seem, at times, to have had separate Kings; and, by that means, to have occasioned some confusion in the list of
our

our Scottish sovereigns, which, an author in a remote corner, with few books to consult on the subject, may not perhaps be able entirely to remove. Upon the death of Achy, Murdach, the son of Anchellach, according to the annals of Tighearnach, assumed the kingdom of Lorn *, at a time when it would seem, from the annals of Ulster, that Dunlaing, brother of Achy, (and another son of Doncha Beg) ascended the throne of Kintyre. The death of this prince is placed in 746, when he was succeeded by Aodh Fionn, or Aidan the fair, (son of his brother Achy) remarkable for his long reign of 30 years. The end of this period will bring us down to 776, which begins the reign of Fergus, another son of Achy, whose death is marked, in the annals of Ulster, under the year 780.

To Fergus succeeded Donchorcai, who died in 791, bearing, like Fergus, the title of King of Dalruaidh. The Conal, who stands next in the ordinary list, is probably the son of *Ao'ain*, (or Aodh, above mentioned) whose death the annals of Ulster place in 806, when he was probably succeeded by Angus, (son of Dunlaing) who died in 811.

Between *Angus* and *Alpine* three other kings intervene, *Aodh*, *Eoghanan*, and *Dughal*; and although some questions have

* About the close of the partial reign of Murdach, (ann. Ult. 735) Ungult, King of the Picts, committed great devastation in his territories. He took Donnath, burned Creich, and put the sons of Selvac in chains, as their father had formerly treated his own brother. He also repeated his hostile visit soon after, and crushed the house of Lorn to such a degree, that it never afterwards recovered. Still, however, it had some who claimed, occasionally, the title of King; of whom were probably Donald, one of the Conals, and that Constantine, who appears in the list of our Scottish Kings. He was probably the last of those who ventured, in 799, to engage in a skirmish with the house of Kintyre, in which Fiangelach, son of Dunlaing, was killed.

have arisen about their genealogy, as well as that of their successor *Alpine*, yet if we consider the declining state of the house of Lorn, and the growing power of that of Kintyre, which, ever since the reign of Doncha Beg, extended the sceptre generally over all Dalruaidh, no reasonable doubt can remain, in which house the crown would continue permanently fixed. Even before the Picts had reduced the power of Lorn, the house of Fergus had become so powerful, and had left such inconsiderable territories to that of Lorn, that it must have been soon annihilated, without the help of a foreign invasion.

As Alpine and Kenneth could not be of the house of Lorn, it is still less probable that they should, as a late writer * supposes, be descended from the Picts, and become sovereigns by right of conquest. The Picts, about this time, though able to distress the feeble and exhausted power of Lorn, were by no means in condition to contend with the house of Fergus, then at the height of its power. Instead of extending their territories and making conquests, the Picts were by this time greatly reduced, and rapidly declining. From the annals of Ulster it appears, that they were about this period not only harassed by foreign enemies, but miserably torn by intestine feuds. In 710, they suffered a great slaughter, in a battle which they fought with the Saxons; and in the same year were worsted in another by the Dalruaidhins. In 716, we find them again engaged with the Dalruaidhins, and again worsted. In 727 they are at war among themselves, and great numbers of them slain; and in the same year another “*lacrimabile bellum*,” or doleful engagement, of the same kind occurs. Next year (728) we find their country involved in another war, in which their king is slain. In 730, they
are

* Mr PINKERTON.

are engaged with the Dalruaidhins, and worsted. In 749, they are engaged with the Britons, and Talorgan their leader killed. In 788, a most dreadful slaughter of them is made by the Norwegians. When reduced to this low ebb, instead of conquering, they afforded a favourable opportunity for being conquered. Accordingly Kenneth, at this very juncture, rushed down from his hills, with his hardy mountaineers, and seized their possessions on the eastern coast, which seem to have been so greatly depopulated, by the repeated calamities already mentioned, that from this period the Picts ceased to be a people, and their very language sunk into oblivion. All our chronicles agree in this conquest of Kenneth, who in 843 translated his throne from Dalruadhain (or Campbelton) to Fortren, or Forteviot, whither, in the local history of the parish of Campbelton, it is not necessary to follow him.

After Kenneth had thus removed the seat of his government, from the western to the eastern coast of Scotland, this remote and deserted corner soon became a prey to foreign invaders. The Danes and Norwegians, who, since the year 795 made frequent descents on the western isles, had now got firm possession of the greater part of them. Nor were they satisfied with this, but in a short time made such frequent inroads into the heart of the kingdom, as to put it entirely out of the sovereign's power, to pay any attention to the frontiers. Kintyre being a peninsula, suffered the same fate with the islands: Both were the asylum of pirates, who not only infested these and the adjacent parts, but frequently returned to commit depredations on the kingdoms from which they came. At length HAROLD HARFAGER, King of Denmark, about the end of the ninth century, found it necessary to make an expedition to this country in person, for the purpose of reducing them to obedience, and appointing a viceroy or gover-

governor over them; for, as these islands were chiefly inhabited by his subjects, he began to consider them as a part of his kingdom.

His lieutenant, *Ketil*, was the person invested by Harold with the government of the isles; but Ketil's ambition was still higher than his station. He formed alliances with the people, set up for independence, and fixed the seat of his little kingdom in the Isle of Man, where he and his successors for several generations were sometimes independent, and at other times tributary, according to the vicissitudes of their affairs.

With one of these kings or viceroys, SOMERLED, a powerful chieftain of Kintyre, formed a matrimonial alliance about the beginning of the 12th century*, and some time after this (in 1158) availing himself of the troubles of that aera, and of a fleet of 53 sail, set up for an independent prince, and tore the western isles and Kintyre from the crown of Mann. After this, by conquest or treaty, he made himself master of Lorn and Argyll, which, with the island of Mull, and those to the north of it, he gave to his son Dugal, as he did Kintyre and the isles to the south of it, to his other son Reginald.

Somerled, not yet satisfied with the extent of his possessions, and elated with the success which had hitherto attended his arms, formed the design, if we may believe the Chronicle of Mann, of subjecting to himself all Scotland. That his views were of that aspiring nature, appears highly probable, from his having begun the war, and carried his arms to so distant a part of the kingdom. In the year 1164, with a
fleet

* SOMERLED married EFFRICA, or RACHEL, daughter of OLAVE *the Swarthy*, king of Mann, grand-daughter of HAROLD HARFAGER. *Vide Chron. Mann.*

fleet of 120 sail, he made a descent on the Clyde, and fought with the army of Malcolm IV. near Renfrew; but he there fell, in the midst of a great number of his followers, a sacrifice to his ambition.

The effects of this disaster were long felt by the family of Somerled, who, instead of attempting to make conquests, for some generations after, were hardly able to preserve the territories of their father. Accordingly, we find the kings of Norway, of Scotland, and sometimes of England, laying claim, at different periods, to the sovereignty of the isles, and pretending to dispose of them at their pleasure; although the descendants of Somerled, whose chief residence was at Campbelton, still kept the possession, exercised the power, and often assumed the title of kings. Frequently, however, they were obliged to temporise, and to attach themselves to different powers, as prudence or policy directed. Thus, in 1206, we find Reginald an independent prince. In 1212, we find him swear fealty to king John of England. Soon after, his successor declares himself the vassal of Alexander II. of Scotland, and gives liberal donations to the monks of Paisley, partly on condition of their praying for the soul of the king his master. After that, we find his dominions tributary to Norway, till Hacho lost the battle of the Largs in 1263; after which his Norwegian successors yielded them to the crown of Scotland, for the annual tribute of 100 marks, as Donald Baine king of Scotland had formerly, in 1093, given them up to Magnus the Barefooted, as the price of his friendship, or as a bribe to avert his hostility*.

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* It has been already observed, that Kintyre always shared the same fate with the isles. On this occasion Magnus, in order to bring it within the compass of his grant, had his barge drawn under sail over the isthmus of Tarbet: After which, considering the power of his sword, nobody could be found so hardy as to deny that Kintyre was an *island*.

In 1335, the descendants of Somerled were again independent. In 1405 and 1408, Henry IV. of England, by his ambassador, courted the alliance of the two brothers, Donald, ancestor of the Macdonald family, and John, of the Antrim. Donald was possessed of the isles, and the neighbouring continent. John inherited Kintyre, which he held of his elder brother. Donald having married Margaret, the eldest sister of Alexander Leslie Earl of Ross, whose daughter had taken the veil; on the death of Alexander he acquired a right to his title and estate. But the Duke of Albany, who acted as regent during the captivity of James I. of Scotland, having married a younger sister of the Earl's, pretended also to his succession. The Duke had been guardian to the nun his niece, who, though rendered incapable, by her pious seclusion, either to inherit, or to execute any deed valid in law, was summoned by him to appear at a Parliament held at Stirling, that she might resign in form the earldoms, for a new investment to his son the Earl of Buchan, afterwards killed at Verneuil. Donald opposed the Duke of Albany by force of arms; and a battle was fought, *anno* 1410, at Harlaw in Aberdeenshire, between the contending parties, the issue of which was not so favourable as to secure him possession.

The king being afterwards convinced, that the regent's pretensions were ill founded, or jealous of his aggrandisement and power, without attempting to seize on Donald's lordship of the isles, or imputing to him, as a crime of rebellion, the assertion of his right, granted livery of the earldom of Ross to Alexander his son, who, in the reign of James II. was perhaps the most powerful subject in the kingdom; being Earl of Ross, Lord of the Isles, and Justiciary of Scotland, from the river Forth to Caithness. His son John, the last Earl of Ross of the Somerled, or Macdonald, family, formed an alliance with Edward IV. of England, and became bound

to aid that monarch, in resisting the pretensions of Henry VI. and Margaret of Anjou *. The king of Scotland, offended at this daring and independent conduct of the Earl, sent an army under the command of the Earl of Athole, to reduce him to obedience †. But a reconciliation having, in the mean time, taken place between James and Edward, the Earl of Rofs submitted without resistance. He was afterwards attainted by a parliament held at Edinburgh in the month of November 1475, but restored the year following to the possession of Kintyre, Knapdale, Morven, and the lordship of the Isles, “ *et omnes alias insulas, quae sibi JOANNI ante dict. foris-
“ facturam hereditarie pertinuerunt, ob propinquitatem sanguinis
“ in qua ipse JOANNES nobis attingit, et ob instantiam carissimae
“ consortis nostrae MARGARITÆ Reginae Scotiae, et venerendo-
“ rum in CHRISTO Patrum, et regni nostri procerum,*” as is expressed in the charter of Restoration. Here we leave the Lords of the Isles, and shall only add, that that powerful family came afterwards to be represented by the descendants of Hugh of Slate in the isle of Sky, brother to the last Earl of Rofs, and ancestor to the present LORD MACDONALD.

In regard to the *second branch* of the MACDONALDS, it is to be observed, that in the year 1493 James IV. held a parliament in Kintyre, where he emancipated part of the vassals of the Macdonalds in Argyll, and granted them, *de novo*, charters holding of the Crown; and, in 1536, to curb the license, and to subdue the haughty spirit of the chieftains and their vassals, James V. found it necessary to make a voyage to the isles. During this expedition, the King built, or rather

* See Rymer's *Foedera* in 1461, where the indenture may be found at length. Boteler bishop of Winchester, and the Lord Wenlock, were the King of England's commissioners.

† On Athole's taking leave, the king told him to “make haste back, and FILL THE FETTERS;” an expression which has ever since been adopted as the motto of the Athole family.

ther fortified the castle of Kilkerran, and left in it a garrison to overawe Macdonald of Kintyre, whose castle of Duniveg stood within half a mile of the King's. But the daring chieftain and his followers were not to be thus intimidated. Before the King had got clear of the harbour, they added insult to rebellion, took the castle, and hung the governor from the wall, as a signal of their conquest.

As the troubles of the times, and the impotence of government, allowed the Macdonalds of Kintyre to commit these outrages with impunity, they continued in the same course, despising the authority of their sovereign, till at length the last miserable expedient of a weak government was adopted, that of commissioning one tribe to chastise and subdue another. With that view, the lordship of Kintyre, then in the possession of Sir James Macdonald, was granted to the family of Argyll, who, after many a struggle, at last succeeded in bringing the Macdonalds to order. The Revolution in 1688, gave such strength and vigour to government, as to make its influence extend to those distant corners of the kingdom. In 1748 the jurisdiction act divested all the chieftains of the power of LIFE and DEATH, and gave the Highland subject his chance of a share in that LIBERTY, which is the peculiar boast and blessing of the natives of this isle.

Since that period, the nature of civil liberty is undoubtedly better known in the Highlands, and property is much more secure. Yet we are not to suppose that the Macdonalds, or their predecessors, the fierce sovereigns of this country, ever sported wantonly with the lives of their subjects, otherwise than by exposing them to the calamities of war; and in *this respect* it is hardly necessary to remark, that the politest people of *our own times* will match them.

It is but justice to say of the M'Donalds, that they were probably no worse than the times required. A rough people

had

had need of rough lords; and as, in the course of ages, the influence of no regular government reached these remote corners, which the Scottish sovereigns had totally abandoned, the Macdonalds, who made annual circuits to receive and to spend their revenues, to administer justice, and to enforce a few simple laws, were, in many respects, useful to their people, and of service to society.

On this account it is not to be wondered, that these little sovereigns claimed, and were allowed, a very high degree of consequence. The representative of the last of these kings, happening to be in Ireland, was invited to an entertainment given by the Lord Lieutenant. He chanced to be among the last in coming in, and set himself down at the foot of the table, near the door. The Lord Lieutenant asked him to sit beside him; and Macdonald, who had no English, asked "What the *carl* said?" He bids you move towards the head of the table. "Tell the carl, that wherever Macdonald sits, *that* is the head of the table." The opinion conceived of these lords in their own country, is emphatically expressed in the short epitaph discovered lately on one of their tombs in Icolunkill, "MAC-DONUILL *fato hic*;"—as much as to say, that *Fate* alone could lay Macdonald there.

The Macdonalds were much celebrated for their hospitality, and no less for their generosity. A night's lodging, or a simple meal furnished to Macdonald, was often rewarded with a farm. That of Coul in Mlay was given to one who had procured him a flounder, when he had probably stood much in need of it. Many families in the Highlands hold their property in consequence of grants from these lords, who conveyed them in charters extremely short, but abundantly strong. This will appear from the following specimen, though divested of the spirit and rhyme of the original: "I
 " Donald, chief of the Macdonalds, give here, in my castle, a
 " right

“ right to Mackay, to Kilmahumag, from this day till to morrow, and so on for ever *.”

Before we conclude this branch of our subject, we must observe, that the place in which the castle of M'Donald stood, is now occupied as a church, in which the minister, of the Lowland charge of Campbelton, enjoys the satisfaction of preaching the gospel of peace, on the same spot, from which the kings and lords of the isles, issued, for ages, their arbitrary mandates. Such are the important changes which the revolution of time can effect.

Ecclesiastical History.—From the contiguity of Kintyre to Ireland, one would expect to find Christianity introduced into it very soon after the year 432, the date of St. Patrick's mission to Ireland. But it seems the revolutions, mentioned above, retarded its progress, till some time after the re-establishment of the kingdom, by the sons of Erc, in the 6th century. It was towards the middle of this century, when *St. Ciaran*, *Querin*, or *Quirinus*, the father and founder of the monastery of Clen upon the Shenan, became the apostle of Kintyre. He took up his humble residence in a cave near Campbelton, which still retains his name. Here a fountain of pure water supplied almost one half of the wants of nature; and the figure of the cross, which he had cut upon the rock, furnished his soul with subjects of meditation.

Usher and others mention two saints of the name of *Ciaran*, distinguishing them by the epithets of *Saighbre*, and *Filius Artificis*. But it is probable there was in reality but one,

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* MISE DONULL NAN DONULL,
AM SHUIDH AIR DÙN DONUILL,
TOIRT CÒIR DO MHAC-ÀIGH AIR KILMAHUMAIG,
O'N DIUGH GUS A MAIREACH,
'S GU LA BHRÀTH MAR ÌN.

as the latter epithet is only a translation of the former. St. Ciaran was one of the masters of St. Columba, the apostle of the Picts and Western Isles, who addressed a Latin hymn to him, which is said to be still extant*.

The church of Kilkerran was well endowed by the Macdonalds, Lords of Kintyre; but what number of ecclesiastics it maintained, upon its establishment, or what was the amount of its revenues, cannot now be ascertained; though some account of them may probably be found in the Charulary of the Abbey of Paisley, to which this church, with all its revenues, was annexed by the patrons. The motive which induced them to annex it to so distant an abbey, and not to that of Saddel, built by themselves in the neighbourhood, probably arose from the circumstance of Somerled's having fallen, with a number of his followers, so near Paisley, that the prayers of the good people there were judged necessary to secure their happiness above.

In

* A Gaelic or Irish prayer, ascribed to CIARAN himself, is also preserved in a very ancient M. S. missal, lately discovered in Drummond Castle, and supposed to be that which was borrowed by Father INNES, as mentioned in his Critical Essay. This prayer, of which the tenor follows, seems to have been composed by the saint, while he resided in the cave, which we have mentioned. 'Alas, that a *learned clerk* should perish! O thou SON (of GOD) have mercy on one devoted to thy service. Heal and quicken my benumbed soul. Long have thy visits been denied to my cell. Yet I should have quickly failed, if thou hadst not supported me. I will therefore render thee the tribute of my highest praise, before the multitude of the people; and place whatever pangs I may endure, to the score of my own sin and folly.'

The good man's pangs were not of long continuance. In the 37th year of his age, and 548th of the Christian Era, he left them all behind him, and changed his cave for the regions of glory. But the parish still retains his name in the appellation of CIL CIARAIN, (or KILKERRAN); and the ruins of the church, which was dedicated to him, are still to be seen in the center of the principal burying ground of the town and parish of Campbelton.

In those days prayers were in much estimation, and well rewarded. The title of one of the articles in the chartulary of Paisley is, ‘ *Charta Reginaldi filii Sumerledi, Domini Inchegal**, *de uno denario ex qualibet domo in terra sua de qua exit funus.*’ In the same chartulary there are 4 or 5 other papers, relative to the grant and annexation of the church of Kilkerran to that abbey; but whatever its revenues were, the Donors certainly made a *notable bargain*, when we consider that the condition was, ‘ for their own *salvation*, and that of *their heirs for ever!*’

With all their warlike ferocity, the potentates of Kintyre had a great degree of piety, which they manifested, according to the custom of the times, in building and endowing churches. Besides his grant to the abbey of Paisley, Reginald finished and endowed the abbey of Sattel in Kintyre, to which his son Roderick gave also large donations. Donald, the son and successor of Roderick, gave likewise 8 cows and other matters yearly to the abbey of Paisley; and Angus, the son and successor of Donald, gave to the same abbey an annuity of half a mark, together with the church of Kilkerran, as already mentioned; and the deed was afterwards confirmed by Alexander his son.

It has been already observed, that Campbelton consisted, till lately, of four distinct parishes. One of these, as mentioned above, was dedicated to St. Ciaran. The three others were dedicated to the Saints *Couflan*, *Michael*, and *Caomhghin*, (pronounced *Coirvin*, and translated *Clement*). Each probably laboured to plant the gospel in that parish, which, out of gratitude, preserved his name. Of the two last, some account may be seen in the *sanctologies*; but we do not recollect to have met with any written account of the first;

* In the same chartulary, he is also stiled, ‘ *Rex insularum, et Dominus de Eryll.*’

first; although the many fragments of elegant crosses found here, (which were so numerous as to give their name to the adjacent farm,) give reason to believe, that the church was much frequented, and the saint of no ordinary fame. Of Coivin's exalted merit, a most honourable testimony may be seen in a Gaelic address, or invocation, to him, preserved in the ancient missal already mentioned, and beginning with 'O Coivin, now with Archangels,' &c.

These two saints, however, Couflan and Coivin, though both of an unquestionable piety, seem to have had ideas on some subjects totally different. Couflan, for instance, inculcated in the strongest manner the indissolubility of the marriage tie, (a point probably as necessary to be inculcated in *his* time, as in *our own*); and if lovers did not yet find it convenient to marry, their joining hands through a hole in a rude pillar near his church, was held, as it continued to be till almost the present day, an interim tie of mutual fidelity, so strong and sacred that, it is generally believed, in the country, none ever broke it, who did not soon after break his neck, or meet with some other fatal accident.

COIVIN, in his district, took a quite different course. He proposed, that all who did not find themselves happy and contented in the married state, should be indulged with the opportunity of parting, and making a second choice. For that purpose he instituted an annual solemnity, at which all the unhappy couples in his parish were to assemble at his church; and, at midnight, all present were sufficiently blindfolded, and ordered to surround the church three times at full speed, with a view of *mixing the lots in the urn*. The moment that ceremony was over, without allowing an instant to recover from the confusion, the word *cabbag* (seize quickly) was pronounced; upon which every man laid hold of the first female he met with, whether old or young, handsome or ugly,

good or bad, she was his wife till the next anniversary return of the solemnity, when he had as good a chance (if he chose to submit to such hazard) of getting a worse or a better bargain. The saint soon brought his parishioners to understand, that they had reason to be satisfied with a condition, which, with all his Christian licence, there was little prospect of mending by a change; and, for many ages, the custom has been only handed down by tradition.

The ruins of the chapels of St. Couflan and St. Coivin, having had the good fortune to be at a convenient distance from houses, are in tolerable preservation, and the ground about them is still sacred to sepulture. That of St. Michael, surrounded by farmer's houses, and, in the true Scottish stile, destitute of inclosure, was found to be suitable to other uses, to which the most of it has been, and still is, *shamefully* applied. Saints, who believe in the resurrection of the body, and savages, who never heard of it, respect the remains of the dead; but we, who would not be desirous to pass for either, as we have almost entirely surmounted the prejudices of both, never think of enclosing the remains of the dead, to guard their ashes from insult.

Monuments, Manners, &c.—Having touched upon the civil and ecclesiastical history of this parish, we should next endeavour to discover the history of its arts and sciences, its manufactures and commerce; but of these, the kings and lords of a dozen of centuries, have hardly left a trace behind them. War was the only business of princes and people, in which they were so constantly engaged, that, excepting the ruins of a few castles and chapels scattered over the face of the country, no monuments remain of their having ever existed. Even these belong to the era of the *lords*, and not to that of the *kings* of Kintyre. The only monuments ever supposed

supposed to have reference to the time of the kings, are the immense barrows, and the rude pillars which mark the scenes of battles, and cover the dust of the slain. These are so numerous throughout the country, that it is unnecessary to particularise any of them. The greatest number of them, however, is to be found about the head of Loch-Crinan *, where probably the families of Kintyre and Lorn often met each other, (being nearly mid-way from their respective residences,) to fight their battles. And yet, from the appearance of such of them as have been opened or removed, (which were found to contain half burnt bones and ashes, sometimes in rude earthen urns, and sometimes in square stone coffins,) it should seem, that they had been raised before the introduction of Christianity; as burning the dead has not been practised since that period, nor was it probably the custom for a long time before it, at least by the natives †. Under the obelisks, or pillars, the same contents are found, as under the cairns or barrows.

A great number of forts, supposed to be Danish, are to be seen along the sea-coast of Kintyre; and there is also a vitrified tower; but, being beyond the bounds of this parish, it is foreign to the limits of this work. Of the houses, built with lime in this country, none can be supposed to be anterior to the 12th century. The little castles of this kind, within the dominions of the Lords of Kintyre, and of the isles, were, for the greater part, of a still later date. The best and oldest of their buildings, in this country, was the abbey of Saddle,

* This bay may have had its name from CRINAN, the warlike Abbot of Dunkeld, (and father of a race of Kings,) who fell in battle in 1045.

† The Danes may have burned their dead, in their incursions into these parts in later times. But these monuments are found often in the inland parts, to which the Danes never penetrated.

Saddel, begun by Somerled, and finished by his son. But this is also beyond the limits of this parish, and cannot therefore, with propriety, enter into the account of it.

If the distracted state of this country was an obstacle, the income of the Lords of Kintyre and of the isles, was not (as the reader may see in the note) * equal to very great undertakings. It was principally paid in kind, and generally spent where it was paid, in entertaining their followers. In those
rude

* State and value of the Rental of MACDONALD in KINTYRE,
Anno 1542.

NORTH KINTYRE.

SOUTH KINTYRE.

In money (Scotch) L. 105 10 0	Money - L. 162 8 4
Oat meal, 388 $\frac{3}{4}$ stones (a stone is $\frac{7}{8}$ of a boll)	Meal, 480 stones 2 pints
Malt, 4 chalders, 10 bolls	Malt, 25 chalders, 14 bolls, 2 firloths
Marts, 6, cow, 1	Marts, 48
Mutton, 41	Mutton, 53
Cheefe, 307 $\frac{3}{4}$ stones	Cheefe, 342 $\frac{3}{4}$ stones

ISLAY and RHEINDS.

Money - L. 45 0 1	Cheefe, 2161 stone 3 lib.
Meal, 2593 stones	Geefe, 301
Marts, 301	Poultry, 301
Mutton, 301	

TOTAL.

In money - - -	L. 332 18 6
Meal, 3061 stones, 3 qrs. 2 lib. at 2 s.	366 2 10
Malt, 30 chal. 8 bolls, 2 fir. at 5 s.	122 2 6
Marts, 356, at 2 ms. - -	553 6 8
Mutton, 595, at 2 s. - - -	45 11 10
Cheefe - - - -	237 2 0
Geefe, 301, at 4d. and poultry, 301, at 2d.	6 0 4
	<hr/>
	L. 1666 2 11 Scotch

rude ages, no other use could be made of any revenue. Luxury was unknown; and, of the gross produce of the earth, the lord could consume no more than his vassal, or meanest follower.

The mode of living, in these countries, till of late years, was extremely simple; and, though originally rather rude and barbarous, was never, in any period, carried to that savage extent, which is alledged by some ancient writers, as Diodorus Siculus, Strabo, and even the good St. Jerome, who accuse the *Atacotti*, and other aboriginal inhabitants with being cannibals. Caesar, Tacitus, and others, who knew them better, lay no such imputation to the charge of our ancestors. Indeed, as they were in the pastoral state of society, antecedent to the earliest account they give, this is of itself a sufficient refutation of that calumny. For no man, who can by any means come at a sheep or cow, will ever think of eating human flesh. The most genuine account of the state of the Highlands, about the end of the 6th and beginning of the 7th century, may be collected from their own writers at that period, (*Cumin* and *Adomnan*,) in their account of the life of ST. COLUMBA. The best houses then were only composed of stakes with wands entwined or wattled about them; for, the church of Jona itself, the see of the kingdom, was of that construction. The clothing partly consisted of the skins of beasts; for it was a leather jacket that saved one of Columba's monks, from a thrust aimed at his master by a barbarian, which the disciple, slipping between, received on his own breast. Yet they had even then not only woollen, but some linen cloths; for the shroud of Columba was a sheet of fine linen. Venison and fish, (even seals are mentioned,) but especially flesh and milk, were the principal part of their food. Folds of cattle are mentioned, from which the saint had his milk carried home on a car. Agriculture, however,

had

had by that time made some progress. We find the monks at work in the fields, and heaps of grain in the barn. We find some mention made even of fruit trees and orchards; and of a Saxon, at that time, in Icolmkill, who exercised the office or trade of a *baker*.

Hogs, too, made no small share of the food of those times. A powerful chieftain in Ilay, was entrusted, by the faint, with the charge of a Pictish Prince, and the monster put his guest to the sword. ‘ Before he shall eat of his hogs, said ‘ the faint, after they shall have fed upon the nuts, he shall ‘ die.’ This circumstance strongly marks, not only the mode of living, but also the barbarity of the times. Theft and robbery were common; but the modern evil, of spirituous liquors, seems to have been then unknown. A leathern bottle, with only innocent milk, is all the beverage allotted to the sailor on his voyage. The bed was the bare ground, and a stone the pillow. No mention is made of money. A spear, and not money, is the price paid by the faint, for the redemption of a slave or captive. Indeed, in a much later period, this *root of evil* had hardly appeared in our barren mountains. About the beginning of the 13th century, the donation of the great Lord of Kintyre and the Isles, to the abbey of Paisley, as already mentioned, was half a mark; and, about the same time, a King of Mann provoked a rebellion, and lost his throne, by spending 100 *marks*, which seem to have been the collected *treasure* of his kingdom.

Five or six centuries seem to have made no change in manners, under the later Kings, or their successors, the Macdonalds; as we find the most barbarous punishments inflicted on criminals and prisoners of war, such as putting out their eyes, and depriving them of some other members. In that period, too, dress was not much attended to. Monuments of the 15th and 16th centuries, represent even chieftains

tains as clad only in a sort of frock, not reaching to the knees, and without shoes to their feet, or any covering to their hands and arms. Before this period, however, Kings had trowsers and a robe, and also shoes; for we read of a King of the Isle of Mann, sending his shoes to his Majesty of Dublin, requiring him 'to carry them before his people on 'a high festival, or expect his vengeance *.' By degrees, the dress, first of the chieftain, and then of the Kings, came to be that of the common people. The party-coloured plaid of the Highlander, was originally the dress royal, not only girt, but loose and flowing, and fastened before by a *fibula* or brooch. The dress, represented on the monuments of ecclesiastics with us, is not unlike the present night-gown, reaching down to the heels, and sometimes girt about the middle.

During this long and turbulent period, too, agriculture made little or no progress. Even so late as about the middle of the last century, meal, excepting a trifling provision, reserved, perhaps, for an infant, was rarely to be found in any family throughout the greatest part of the year. Till about the same period, almost every man was his own taylor, shoemaker, carpenter, and every thing; of which many instances have been known, even in our own times. Weaving was the only art necessary to the simple life of a Highlander, which he did not practise himself, because it was accounted effeminate, inferring more trouble and patience than he chose to bestow. It was therefore left to those who professed it, who were generally females. Of these *Penelopes*, a few
may

* This good Dublinian King discovers a spirit of humanity and wisdom, rarely found in better times. His subjects urged him not to submit to the indignity of bearing the Mankisman's shoes. 'I had rather,' said he, 'not only bear but eat them, 'than that one province of Ireland should bear the desolation 'of war.'

may still be found in the Highlands ; and perhaps, in every stage of society, the female sex might well be employed in the art of weaving : The labour is not hard, and they suffer less than men by a sedentary life.

Population.—Of the ancient state of population in this parish, no satisfactory account can be given ; only that from the first notice we have of the country, it seems, in general, to have been well peopled. Early in the 5th century, we find the *Atacotti* (of whose territory Kintyre made a considerable part) mentioned as making no inconsiderable figure in the Roman armies, into which great numbers of them probably enlisted, when the bulk of their countrymen were driven by the Picts into Ireland. They must have been still more numerous, when they returned under Fergus the son of Erc, and recovered the country from which they had been expelled. Of their number, whatever it may have been, this parish must have always had a large share, as it was the residence of the sovereign, and the rendezvous of their fleet. This fleet seems to have been very considerable ; for in 718 the powers of Kintyre and Lorn contended for the kingdom in a sea-fight. Near the same period, we find the fleet of this place (Dalruadhain) sent for, to decide the contest about the right of succession to the throne of Ireland ; and in the 12th century, Somerled of Kintyre was, at one time, possessed of 53, and at another of 120 sail. From all which it may be inferred, that this part of the country was then well peopled, although it is not possible to ascertain what their numbers may have been.

During the civil wars of last century, this country is said to have suffered much, from the ravages of Alexander Macdonald, called *Alister Macoll*, or *Coll Kittie*, who came over with a party of Irish to assist Montrose. The Earl of Antrim was
expected

expected at the same time, and a battery, now called *the Trench*, was raised for his reception, at the mouth of the harbour. About the same time Kintyre was visited by the plague, which then raged over a great part of Britain. By these calamities, the number of inhabitants was greatly reduced: And although the loss was, in some measure, made up by a colony of Lowlanders, introduced by the Earl of Argyll, yet it is probable that the country did not, till very lately, recover its former extent of population. The returns made to Dr Webster, in 1755*, state the number of souls in this parish, to have been 4597.

* The inhabitants of the town are so apt to fluctuate, that it is not easy to ascertain their numbers with precision. They are computed at 5000. In spring 1791, the exact number of souls in the landward part of the parish (the villages of Dalintober, Dalruadhain, and Lochend, being classed with the town) was as follows:

	Highland.	Lowland.	Total.
In the parishes of Kilchoulan & Kil-			
michael - - - -	1400	471	1871
----- of Kilkivan and Kil-			
kerran - - - -	1460	384	1844
Total in the country	2860	855	3715

In the same year 400 tickets for admission to the communion were distributed to the Highlanders in the town, and 500 to the Highlanders in the country. By this proportion, the number in the town should be 4644. But as the proportion of Lowlanders in the town is much greater than in the country, and the proportion of communicants fewer, owing to so many of the men being absent, it is believed that 5000, computed to be in the town and adjoining villages, is very near the truth. The average of baptisms in the parish, for nine years past, is 254½ *per annum*, and of marriages 42: But from this no other inference can be drawn, but that, right or wrong, we increase and multiply. The average given will afford no exact rule of calculation, as sailors, who make a considerable part of the inhabitants of the town, are of a migratory nature, and the ministers

4597. At present (in 1791) they are about 8700, and consequently the increase in 36 years amounts to 4103.

Ecclesiastical State.—Nearly two thirds of the people are Highlanders, and belong to the Highland charge, or first established congregation of the parish. Of the remainder, near 1000 are presumed to be of the English or Lowland established charge, and about 2000 of the Congregation of Relief. There is a minister and church for each congregation. The Highland church has been for some time ruinous, but there is a prospect of its being soon rebuilt. The stipends of each of the ministers upon the establishment, is 3 chalders 8 pecks of bear, and 36 l. 13 s. 4 d. Sterling in money. That of the minister of the Relief congregation is much better. One of the glebes is distant and partial; the other is under the legal extent; but the minister has the legal allowance to compensate the deficiency. In this respect, however, the ministers have no cause to complain, as they have access to market, (if they have money), and need not, unless they are so inclined, occupy their glebes at a certain loss, as the clergy of Scotland in general have no alternative. A minister who occupies his glebe must keep a horse, (besides hiring another occasionally), a man, a maid, and a herd. The whole produce of four acres will not maintain them, so that he is a loser of more than the full amount of their wages. The writer has accordingly known a very accurate and economical minister beat about among his neighbours, to try if any of them would take the gift of his glebe, and furnish him

cannot say, whether the register of baptisms and marriages have been kept correctly or not. They believe that the tax is duly levied, though they never stepped into the publican's province, as they hold their own to be already sufficiently ample. In this parish there is no register of burials.

him with the articles which it should produce at the market price, and a horse, when he should ride, at the ordinary hire. The minister who reckons upon what he can turn out of a glebe, reckons upon a loss, if he has in that glebe less than from 15 to 20 acres*.

Cattle,

* Suppose the four acres of a legal glebe to be under potatoes, bear, hay, and oats, in rotation, the produce, in this country, may be reckoned as follows :

1 Acre of potatoes, taking 20 pecks feed, and reckoning (above the average of the country) 15 returns ; or, after deducting the feed, $17\frac{1}{4}$ bolls at 8s.

L. 7 0 0

1 Ditto bear, taking 12 pecks feed, and reckoning 6 returns ($5\frac{1}{2}$ being the average of the country) or, after deducting the feed, $3\frac{3}{4}$ bolls, at 20s. 3 15 0

1 Ditto hay, which must go to maintain the horse and cow in winter, and therefore cannot be reckoned ; but instead of it, take the produce of 2 cows, at more than its average value in the country - - - 4 10 0

1 Ditto of oats, taking 1 boll feed, and allowing 4 returns, ($3\frac{1}{2}$ being the average of the country,) or, after deducting the feed, 3 bolls, of which $2\frac{1}{2}$ must go to feed the horse, and the other $\frac{1}{2}$ to the cows in time of calving, and therefore cannot be reckoned.

Total produce ————— L. 15 5 0

Deduct—maintainance of a man servant, 8l. *per annum* ; of a maid, 6l. ; of a herd for 8 months, 4l. - 18 0 0

Horse shoeing 12s. implements of husbandry 24s. hire of additional horse for ploughing 15s. tear, wear, and risk of horse and cows, 30s. occasional aid in hay time and harvest 12s 4 13 0

Carried forward L. 22 13 0 L. 15 5 0

Cattle, &c.—The parish of Campbelton, like the rest of the country, was long ago divided into merk-lands, of which it

Brought over	L. 22 13 0	L. 15 5 0
Man's wages 8 l. <i>per annum</i> , but abate 12 s. for his service in the garden, and say 7 l. 8 s.; maid's wages 3 l. of which abate one half on account of extra work, besides attending the cows and out-work, and say 30 s. and herd's wages 15 s.	- - - 9 13 0	
Annual expence in clover and rye-grass feed	- - - - - 0 19 4	
	<hr/>	33 5 4
Loss of a minister <i>per annum</i> on working a legal glebe	- - - - -	L. 18 0 4
To this tax, which the country minister pays for his accommodation, add (in order to have an <i>analysis</i> of his stipend) his rate to the Fund, wages and maintainance of a maid for the house and children, coal and candle, or fuel and light	- - - - -	7 15 0
Soap	- - - - -	3 0 0
Expence of attending 3 sacraments, 4 presbyteries, 1 synod, and an Assembly of the church once in 4 years, say, <i>per annum</i> , only	- - - - -	5 5 0
Postage, pens, ink, paper, a volume of sermons, and half a newspaper	- - - - -	1 15 0
For the minister's clothes, linens, hat, stockings, boots and shoes, <i>per annum</i>	- - - - -	10 0 0
	<hr/>	L. 60 10 4
From Sir Henry Moncrieff Welwood's scheme of augmentation, lately published, the average stipends of the clergy of Scotland appear to be	- - - - -	81 8 11
	<hr/>	
From which deducting 60 l. 10 s. 4 d. there remains	- - - - -	L. 20 18 7
for the maintenance of the minister, for the maintainance and clothing of his wife and children, for the education and provision of the latter, for births, burials, doctor's fees and medicine, furniture, charity, incidents, &c. If the sons of the prophets of old had a <i>curse</i> in their pot, we have surely a <i> blessing</i> in ours!		

it contains 200. To each merk-land may be allowed, at an average, about 25 head of black cattle, 25 of sheep, and 6 of horses. The breed of horses and cows is far from being good. The sheep, which are generally of the native white faced kind, are small, but their wool is fine. They are commonly housed at night, which keeps them dirty, and subjects them to diseases. In summer, especially, they are, from this practice, liable to be infested with a kind of worm or maggot; a distemper which was prevented or cured by a decoction of oak bark, or of broom and stale urine, when they had not the convenience of oil, tar, and brimstone, or the juice of tobacco. From the mildness of the climate, if flocks, at least of the hardy native race, were allowed to lie out, the smearing practised in other places could here be dispensed with.

Produce.—The produce of the arable land consists of bear, oats, potatoes, beans, and sometimes a little pease. Potatoes are the principal food of the bulk of the people, for three fourths of the year, and therefore they are raised in great abundance. Next to potatoes, the chief attention of the farmer is directed to the raising of bear, on which he depends chiefly for his rent, as he does on potatoes for his subsistence. A considerable quantity of flax is also raised, but little or no hay. When somewhat more of the land shall be inclosed, and sufficiently drained, the system of husbandry will probably be changed. As the greater part of the last leases were given by the Duke of Argyll, on condition of making certain improvements, instead of paying an augmentation of rents, there is reason to hope that the face of the country will soon assume a better appearance, and that this noble proprietor, and others who may be induced to follow his example, will be encouraged to pursue, for some time, so beneficial a system. His Grace, some years ago, encouraged a
number

number of English farmers to settle on his estate here, in hopes of their introducing a better mode of agriculture than was practised in the country; but they have generally adopted, rather than changed, the customs of the place. His Grace also employs a skilful improver, to give his best advice and direction to the tenants, from which considerable benefit may in time be expected. At present, the forcing of more than a due proportion of bear, without a proper rotation, or any regular intervention of green crops, has a manifest tendency to impoverish and run out the soil. Another general error in the system of farming here is over-plowing, by which the farmer diminishes his grass, without adding to his corn. A plain proof of this is, that oats, at an average, give but $3\frac{1}{2}$ returns; so that a great part of what is sown must probably fall short of 2.

Imports.—The quantity of corn raised in the parish is by no means sufficient for its inhabitants in town and country. It is computed, that for some time past about 2500 bolls of meal have been annually imported. Since the late corn law took place, oat-meal has not been above $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per pound in our market. For the equity of that law we, and indeed all the west of Scotland, are much indebted to the wisdom and humanity of the legislature; as, if it had passed in the way in which the gentlemen of the east country would have had it, we should have been compelled, occasionally, to have lived only upon air and water. The Highlands are already so heavily taxed by their situation, soil, and climate, that they need every possible indulgence from government. Of potatoes, butter, cheese, and black cattle, we have in this parish sufficient for our own use, and somewhat to spare to our neighbours. The surplus is sent to Clyde, with which we have such regular and constant intercourse by packets, that
our

our markets here are pretty much regulated by the price of provisions there.

Wild Animals.—In this parish we have no wild animals, birds, reptiles, or any species of vermin, but such as are common throughout the west of Scotland. The mole, formerly unknown, has lately made an inroad to the extent of some miles within the isthmus.

Minerals, Fuel, &c.—There is abundance of coal within 3 miles of Campbelton, and a canal lately made to convey it to the town, where the small cart load (of which 3 should make a ton) sells at 2s. 7½d. About 40 carts a-day are consumed in the town. Turf or peat is commonly used in the country; as it is also by many of the poorer sort within the town. There is likewise, in this parish, abundance of Fuller's earth, and soap rock, which, it is thought, may be manufactured into fine ware, or British china.

Burgh.—CAMPBELTON, originally a small fishing village, was erected into a royal burgh, in 1701. It is governed by a provost, two bailies, a dean of guild, counsellors, and a treasurer. This last employment is not very burdensome, as the town has no landed property, and but a small revenue*. We have, therefore, no great complaints of *abuse*, nor any loud cry for *reform*. Where the magistrates of burghs, like the elders of churches, hold offices which occasion trouble, and produce little emolument, perhaps, they rather deserve the thanks of the public for what they do, than their censure for what they leave undone.

Harbour,

* Its principal funds arise from a tax of $\frac{1}{84}$, or a lippie in the boll, levied on all the meal and grain brought in from the country; and from the tack profits of a miln, harbour dues, and church seats.

Harbour, School, &c.—The town has an excellent harbour, about 2 miles long and 1 broad, in the form of a crescent, from 6 to 10 fathom water, good holding ground, surrounded with high hills on each side, and an island to shelter it at the entrance. We have also a good school with two masters; the salary of the one (20 l.) is paid by the heritors of the parish, and that of the other (10 l.) by the burgh.

Fisheries, Commerce, &c.—The principal trade of the place is the fishing of herrings. To this business the inhabitants naturally turned their attention early, as their situation for pursuing it was favourable. They have one of the best harbours in the world as their pride and boast. They are near good markets, both on the Clyde and in Ireland: And they have ready access to the fishing grounds. With these advantages, while (like the Dutch) they kept within the limits of that economy, which ought to be the characteristic of fishermen, while they proceeded no farther than their little stock allowed, and while every man on board had a share of the vessel and cargo, they did extremely well, even without the aid of public bounty. Now the case is altered. The mode of living is expensive; the wages of men are high; the fishermen are no longer owners; excepting perhaps the master who may have sometimes a share; and, even when that is the case, may be able, at times, to separate his own interest from that of the other owners; and, what is still worse, almost every man in the place, with or without an adequate stock, is ambitious to have a share in one or more expensive well found vessels, or herring busses. The great rise in the price of oak staves and barrels, has also become of late a heavy draw-back on the business. For these reasons, it has not greatly prospered, although fostered by the kind hand of Government. The buss bounty laws have, for these 26 years past, been,
with

with different alterations and amendments, renewed at the end of every 7th year. By the present law, (which is to expire in 1793,) they have 30 s. *per* ton, when they make two-thirds of a full cargo, and only 20 s. *per* ton, when they have less. The hardship of having the bounty less, when they have little or no fish, and therefore stand most in need of it, is obvious. It is not then sufficient, they say, to defray the expence incurred by the number of men, which they must have by the law, more than are necessary for the business. They hope, therefore, that, upon a renewal of the act, they may be allowed 30 s. *per* ton, whatever may be their success in fishing. With respect to the article of salt, the present law gave satisfaction, as being wise and liberal. This article they can now have from their neighbours at Liverpool, on easier terms than they had it formerly from Spain and Portugal. But they still complain of the many inconvenient and embarrassing regulations, to which they are subjected at custom-houses, before salt bonds can be cancelled. It is the general opinion, that the whole present system of laws, respecting salt for curing fish and other articles, stands much in need of being revised and amended.

The following is the average state of the fishing business in this place, for the last 7 years.

Vessels.	Tons.	Men.	Barrels of herrings.
50 $\frac{2}{7}$.	3004 $\frac{3}{7}$.	674 $\frac{6}{7}$.	7412.

In a successful year, the profits of a voyage, between fish and bounty, are said to be considerable: But it is reckoned a bad business, when a vessel falls short of catching half its cargo. One thing is evident, that neither individuals, nor the community here, have made much by prosecuting the fishery on the present plan; and one may venture to say, they

never shall. It is a game of hazard, which obliges the adventurer often times to live upon hope; and when that hope is at any time realised, he builds too much on the faith, that the same good fortune will continue. In the elevation occasioned by a prosperous moment, he launches into expences, and projects, so disproportioned to his capital, that his stock is soon exhausted, and, if his fortune changes, his credit follows. Had the people of Campbelton exerted the perseverance, industry, and zeal bestowed on the fishery for 40 years past, upon agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, in general, their gains, though small and slow, would have been sure and steady; the inhabitants, like others who followed this course, would have been easy, and the place would have been flourishing. It is perhaps a low enough calculation, to set down the average of last 7 years, as the average of the 40, and to reckon the stock in trade, or the value of 50 vessels, with their materials of boats, nets, casks, and salt, at 40,000*l*. Add to this the yearly bounty given by government, which has not been niggardly, and one will naturally suppose the people of Campbelton to be rich. But, instead of that, there is not, perhaps, in Scotland, such an aggregate of miserable objects, in so small a place. The poor on the church roll and in the streets, (who do not include all the indigent in their number,) make above $\frac{1}{25}$ of the whole inhabitants*.

The

* This uncommon proportion is partly owing to the number of poor families who come here from other parts of the Highlands, in hopes of getting some employment and bread, many of whom are soon a burden on the community. The prospect of pursuing the trade of begging to greater advantage, in a place more populous than the neighbourhood, probably induces others to take huts here; from which they are not hindered, if they pay, or promise, a few shillings of rent. As for the poor on the parish roll, they may be said to be supported by the poor. The congregation of relief, who are among the ablest of the common

The perilous trade, which the people of the place pursue, occasions yearly the loss of many lives; and, of course, a number of poor widows and helpless orphans. A charity school, (supported by the Duke of Argyll, and the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge,) which, for many years, contained above a hundred children, could never receive all the objects. Besides the poor left by the loss of lives, the sailors who survive soon grow old; and then many of them have no resource but begging. Economy is not the virtue of a sailor; and if it were, it would be hard to practise it, on an income of 10 l. or 12 l. with the burden of a numerous family.

Unprofitable, however, as this business has been, especially for some time past, it is certainly of great importance, when viewed in the light of public and national utility. Whatever is gained from the sea is all clear profit; and the fisheries form a nursery for seamen, which, both as a commercial and warlike nation, we ought to keep up. Besides the number furnished to the Clyde and Liverpool traders, it is said, that, from this port, no less than 800 went to the navy, during the course of the late American war. Their encouragement

common people, keep their collections to themselves; and many of the affluent and upper ranks, neither come often to church, nor send their offerings. The great family, to which more than half the parish belongs, resides elsewhere, and joins to its other virtues, an exemplary attendance on public worship there. The time has been when our residing heritors did so here, nor thought it beneath them to act as elders, in looking after the concerns of the poor. But the present generation is more enlightened than the former, and *philosophy* is making progress. Those, however, who have any thing valuable to preserve or to lose, even in the present world, should inquire, whether a regard to religion and its institutions be not their great palladium. Neglect this, and what must follow?—France will tell. Behold this Pharos, and be wise in time.

agement to serve his Majesty now is much better, in consequence of the late humane and important regulations, relative to the mode of paying their wages, which enable them to be of service to their families. For these regulations, (of which copies have been transmitted to the clergy throughout the kingdom, in order to be communicated as occasion should require,) they are indebted to the laudable attention of the Right Honourable Henry Dundas, acting as Treasurer of the Navy. Still they complain, that the boatswain is rough, as the element around him; for which at times there may be need.

Poor.—As *begging* is a *free* trade here, perhaps too many are allowed to profess it; yet it would require much tenderness and delicacy to restrain it. The weekly collections of the 2 established congregations, make about 15 s. The interest of a small fund *, and some other adventitious aids, enable the session to distribute about 7 l. in every six weeks, among upwards of 100 of the most needy, who are on their roll, and a trifle to about 60 more, at the annual dispensation of the sacrament of the Lord's supper, when the collection commonly exceeds 20 l. Assessments are not desirable if they can be prevented; but ere long they will probably be unavoidable here, especially if the fishery continues to be the principal business of the place.

Distilleries.—Next to the fishing of herrings, the business most attended to in Campbelton, is the distilling of whisky; which the following is the state for the present year.

N°.

* Major SAM. KILPATRICK, a native of this parish, who died a few years ago, in the service of the East India Co. bequeathed 100 l. to the poor of the parish.

	N ^o . of Stills.	Bolls distilled.	Produce in Gall.
In the town	22	5500	19800
In the country	10	2134	6350
	<hr/> 32	<hr/> 7634	<hr/> 26150

Of this quantity 5000 bolls are computed to be the produce of the parish. The remainder is brought from different places, and a considerable quantity of the spirits is again disposed of throughout the Highlands. This business is undoubtedly gainful to a few individuals, but extremely ruinous to the community. It consumes their means, hurts their morals, and destroys both their understandings and their health. Were it not for preventing the temptation of smuggling, a duty next to a prohibition would be *mercy*. At present the law, respecting distilleries in the Highlands, is so favourable to the trade, as to be hurtful in its consequences to the morals of the people. When a man may get half an English pint of potent spirits, or, in other words, get completely drunk for 2 d. or 3 d. * many will not be sober. In this place, however, very few, comparatively speaking, are given to drunkenness, as people are seldom guilty of excess in what is their daily fare. But, abstracting from this consideration, the trade, when carried on to such an extent, is extremely hurtful to this parish in another point of view. To it we owe the want of wheat or flour of our own, which takes yearly out of the place above 2000 l.; besides the want of a sufficiency of meal to serve the inhabitants, for which we send away about as much more. Both these sums might be saved, if we could be kept from destroying so much of our own and our neighbours grain. But the prospect of enormous

* In some places it is sold at 9d. the Scotch Gallon. See Stat. Acc. of KIRKSHILL, Vol. IV, Num. XIV. p. 122.

normous gain, first tempts the indigent to convert their little crop into a pernicious liquor, and then the law obliges them to drink it themselves, as it cannot be sold but where they have equal poverty and equal liberty. Thus, in the trite story, the two publicans, who went alternately to each others houses, with the same twopence, drank both their cellars dry. Were we allowed to export a part, to help us to pay our meal and flour, it would do us much service. We have, however, much cause to be thankful for the present law, as it stands; for it has been productive of much good to the country. It has put the business into few hands, and thereby removed from many a temptation, too strong for their feeble virtue. It has happily put an end to smuggling; and, as we must have some liquor, it makes us drink our own, and allows us to drink it better, than when it was made clandestinely and imperfectly. The revenue too has been raised since, by our collector, (Mr. Mackenzie), to full four times what it was before the act took place; and the farmer gets a better price, and better payment, for his grain. Still, however, it were much to be wished, that GOOD ALE* was substituted in lieu of whisky, and wheat and green crops for the greater part of our bear.

Manufactures.—It is some relief to turn from this unpleasant subject, to the dawn of manufactures among us. For these 2 or three years past, a number of young girls are profitably employed, in tambouring muslins sent from Glasgow, and contribute to the support of themselves and parents. About 50 weavers are also employed in working cotton yarn from the same place. And yet our own linen yarn is exported, unwrought, to the value of near 2000 l. *per annum*. If, instead of this, we manufactured it ourselves, it would
yield,

* The quantity made into ale or beer this year, is 400 bolls.

yield, at least, 500 l. more. It is hoped we shall soon learn to do so, especially as a bleachfield is established in the parish, in consequence of encouragement and aid given to it, by the Duke of Argyll.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The valued rent of the parish is 910 l. 9 s. 5 d. Sterling. The real rent, from the great number of proprietors in the town, and from some of the heritors having much of their property in their own hands, cannot be precisely ascertained. The quantity of butcher meat, slaughtered yearly for the town and ships, is computed to be as follows ; namely,

1000 head of cattle, weighing about	256,000 lib. Eng.
800 sheep	28,800
300 calves	9,600
200 swine	11,400
Annual consumption of tea	12,000 weight.
Annual amount of the postage of letters delivered at the post-office	L. 250 *

Character

* A mode lately adopted at this office, and, it seems, at some others, makes it much less useful to the people, and productive to the revenue, than it would otherwise be. The runners, in conformity, it is presumed, to law and established usage, were in the practice of delivering the letters in town, at a time when, at any rate, they were waiting their dispatches, and of conveying such letters to places on the road, as did not lie out of their way. But now, unless the inhabitants of the town and country shall constantly repair to the office to inquire for their own letters, they may be returned as *dead*, without their ever hearing of them. This must be the case, especially with respect to those who are seldom in the receipt of letters, and do not therefore know when to look or call for them, as the faculty of the *second-sight* is lost, which would be necessary to give them, or the revenue, that benefit for which the office was intended.

Character of the People —The people of Campbelton, in their dress and manners, differ little from those of other seaport towns in the kingdom, of the same magnitude. They are, in general, orderly and well behaved; courteous to strangers, and kind to the poor. They afford perhaps too much business to attorneys or writers, of whom half a dozen reside in the town. Want of employment disposes, and indeed obliges, many to be often idle, and their general poverty leads too many to pilfering; while the cheapness of spirits, and the intolerable number of dram houses, are continual temptations to drunkenness and riot. Intoxication, indeed, proves oftentimes fatal to many. In the country part of the parish, the people are more regular and frugal. There they usually work hard, live poorly, and are soon old. On Sundays they are decently dressed; the men in the manufacture of their wives, the wives from the importation of the merchant. One circumstance in the general character of the lower class of people, both in town and country, according to the complaint and experience of their clergy, consists in the little attention paid to every thing beyond their worldly interests, and a woeful ignorance in matters of religion; though, in other respects, they are abundantly intelligent; which may be ascribed partly to two causes, operating generally over the whole kingdom; namely, neglect in giving a religious education to young people; the principal care, which occupies the attention of masters and parents, being only to qualify them for business;—and, again, to a more than usual neglect in attending public worship, which is no less necessary, than the early instilling of good principles; the temper and conduct of men, being at least as much regulated by habit as by principle. But it is not to these general causes, that the evil, complained of here, is to be chiefly attributed, but to the want of schools in the country; to the

the poverty and mode of living of the generality of the inhabitants in the town ; the extent of the parish ; and to the want of access to public worship and instruction, occasioned by the ruinous state of the established churches, which, for 25 years past, have been alternately unfit for the public exercise of devotion. But, it is to be hoped, this reproach will soon be removed, together with its principal causes. A charity school has been for some years established in the town, and two more are about to be erected in the country, in consequence of the liberal encouragement offered by the Duke of Argyll, where his Grace's interest is chiefly concerned, and an application made to the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, for their aid. The Highland church too, so long wanted, and so much needed, is about to be rebuilt ; and the younger people, from seeing the better success of manufactures, become every day less devoted to the sea-faring line. A public library was likewise set on foot a few years ago, of which any one, who chooses, may have the benefit for 6s. a year. This institution promises much utility, by diffusing general knowledge and a taste for reading. A library, consisting of religious tracts and sacred writings, has also been lately set on foot by one of the clergymen, who expects much good from his institution. The books, are, with little trouble, handed to such persons as attend for the purpose of reading between sermons. Every reader, or sharer in this compilation, pays only 1s. *per annum* ; and it is intended, when the institution can afford it, to give the use of the books, that have been for the greatest length of time in the circle, to such of the poor, as may wish to read them, *gratis*. Books of controversy, (which are read with such avidity by the common people in Scotland,) are carefully excluded from this collection, as the fruit which they produce is bitter. The ancient martyr

said, he could either live or die for Christ, but could not dispute for him. In our times the reverse of this is more commonly the case.

Improvements.—Although the people may be said to have the means of happiness, in some measure, within their reach, yet the interests of the parish would be obviously promoted, if some of the lower grounds were inclosed, and if the higher were stocked with sheep. As they require an extensive range, the hilly parts of several contiguous farms might be occupied by a joint stock, in which every farm might have an interest, in proportion to its share in the bounds. The profits of such a stock would go much farther to pay the rents, than any *other* produce which may be derived from a mountainous country; more meat would be brought to market, and the wool would be at hand for manufacture and employment. But God forbid! that the people, as in other places, should be obliged to remove in order to make room for sheep. The principal proprietor of this country has happily discovered all along a marked aversion to remove his people, and often refused the higher offers of the few, for possessions held at inferior rents by the many. In all the peninsula of Kintyre, there is but one considerable sheep stock, and that on a mountain incapable for cultivation. The opposite system, which has been carried to such an extreme in the Highlands, is perhaps as adverse to the interests of the proprietor, as it is detrimental to the kingdom at large. To the latter it is an obvious and irreparable loss, to banish that hardy race of men, by whom its battles have been so often fought*, and its fleets so often manned. To the proprietor, too, it is an obvious disadvantage, to have his
lands

* In each of the two last wars, 20,000 Highlanders were reckoned to be in his Majesty's army.

lands kept in a state of nature ; to which may be added, the diminution of that political consequence and weight in society, which, upon emergencies, he would derive from being at the head of a number of people, instead of their fleecy substitutes. To this it is answered, That a shepherd and his dog can manage half a parish under sheep, and consequently, that he can afford to give more rent, than a score or two of farmers, who, following the ancient culture, must maintain their families out of its produce. But they do not consider, that such families work hard, live upon little, and not only maintain themselves, but mend the soil, adding not only to its cultivation, but preserving and upholding the labour of ages from becoming again a forest or wilderness. The value of every estate must arise from its animal and vegetable productions ; and if it can be so managed as to produce the nobler animal *man*, without diminishing the number of marketable commodities, a national as well as local benefit is accomplished. How easily might this two-fold advantage be effected, even in the most barren and rugged parts of the Highlands ! Let the sheep occupy the mountains ; but let the valley, or the narrow plain, bordering upon the stream or rivulet, be given to the people. There labour and industry would soon raise food sufficient, not only to supply their families, but even the undiminished flock with subsistence. This is not the language of mere speculation, but of experience. A few years ago, a large estate in the Highlands was, according to the rage of the times, converted into sheep pasture, and given in lease to a few rich graziers at an advanced rent. So much humanity, however, was shewn to some of the poor people, who could not provide for themselves elsewhere, that they were allowed one large farm among them, the rent of which was advanced, by degrees, to the general standard. There they sat down, to the number of about 30 families, and, at

a considerable expence, built for themselves tolerable habitations. The arable part of the farm, with as much ground as could be improved by cultivation, they divided into shares, proportionate to their respective families. This being done, they fell to work with plough, spade, and mattock, occasionally uniting their forces to what they could not singly perform. At the same time they joined their little money, and whatsoever they could raise upon credit, to put a common stock of sheep on the mountain, and employed a common shepherd to take the charge of them. Their flock prospered, and their ground rendered fertile by their exertions, produced enough to supply the wants of nature, which are all a Highlander requires. In short, they so effectually improved the ground and their own circumstances together, that a rich neighbour, envying their prosperity, persuaded the landlord to transfer the mountain to him, alledging that the plain alone would suffice for the present possessors. But this proving to be absolutely impossible, of consequence they were ruined. The experiment, however, was fairly tried, and from 100 to 150 souls not only derived their living out of the farm, but paid their rent, perhaps without any sensible diminution of the cattle which it was capable of maintaining, if the plain had not been tilled. By such management as this, the hills might be covered with sheep, the plains with corn, the Highland estates would be improved, and the people would be rendered happy.

Another improvement, much wanted in this parish, is planting, of which it is almost totally destitute. Besides beautifying the face of the country, this would in time save the money, which must otherwise be disbursed by the inhabitants for various purposes. At present the trees in the parish are so rare, that a child could almost tell them; yet there are
enough

enough to demonstrate, that if man were active, nature would be kind.

The manufacture of tiles, a simple one, and easily carried on, where there is abundance of clay and coal, is also an improvement that ought to be introduced, as it is easily acquired, and would save considerable sums of money, sent regularly every year for that article to Glasgow. By these means also an essential benefit would redound to the farmers, whose yearly expenditure, in straw and workmanship for their thatched roofs, is very considerable; nor do they enjoy the cleanliness or comfort, which they might derive from tiles. If this article were within their reach, it would probably lead to a total change in their mode of building, as they have a abundance of stone and lime at hand. The country, at present, is infested with rats, mice, and other vermin, which, when they have once taken possession, can never be dislodged from mud walls and thatched roofs. The introduction of buildings, impervious to such intruders, would be of considerable advantage to the farmer, by saving a great deal of his grain from depredation*.

The growing of wheat, to answer the demand of the place, would, as has been already mentioned, save to the country 2000 l. *per annum*. Those, who have raised this species of grain in small quantities, lament the inconvenience they are subject to, by having no mill to grind it; but it is to be hoped, that the town mill will be so improved in its machinery, as to remove this cause of complaint.

Raising green crops would also benefit the farmer, and the town would soon be properly supplied with stall-fed butcher meat, throughout the winter and spring; which at present,
during

* Since the above was written, some measures have been taken by the Duke of Argyll's chamberlain or steward here, for beginning this business.

during these seasons, is scarce and bad. Instead of exhausting their land by over-cropping, could the farmers be persuaded to lay it down in heart, under grals feeds, and to give it longer rest in pasture, they would soon find their account in it.

But the **most** general advantage of this parish, and of all the western Highlands and Isles of Scotland, would arise by their being for ever exempted from the oppressive duty upon coals carried coast-ways, as at present two or three months of the best season of the year are spent by the farmers, and other inhabitants, in preparing a miserable and precarious kind of fuel, when they should be carrying on fencing, draining, making lime, compost manures, and other means of improvement. Till this duty is abolished, Campbelton can derive but little advantage from its having coal so near it ; as the price will always keep pace with that which we must pay for coal imported. And considering its inferior quality, perhaps it is higher ; so that in fact we may be said to pay the duty, though, strictly speaking, duty free. The mosses in many of the isles, and in many parts of the continent, are now exhausted, and the distress of the inhabitants loudly calls for the equity and humanity of government, for a mitigation of their distress *.

With regard to the town of Campbelton, its particular interests would best be promoted, by the introduction of some useful manufacture. Till that shall happen, in spite of its natural advantages, it must always remain poor. The women and children are too heavy a burden on the poor sailor, whose wages can hardly furnish himself with bare subsistence, instead of having a family to maintain, who at present can
con-

* Since the above was written, the coal tax has been happily abolished.

contribute little to their own support, except by working up fishing nets. In the mean time, the first and most obvious manufacture to be set on foot, is the making of sail cloth and cordage; by means of which a sum, which, it is said, amounts yearly to more than 3000 l. would be prevented from going out of the country.

Much good also would arise, by a rigorous suppression of petty dram shops kept in hovels, several of them so poor, that their whole contents could not, perhaps, defray the expence of a licence.

Lastly, Persons, bred to such trades as are most necessary for us, should be invited and encouraged to settle here. Societies ought to be formed, whose large numbers would make up for their small ability. To every useful settler of this kind, all heritors and proprietors of lands or houses ought to give every encouragement, more especially by granting feus or long leases, which would attach them to the place. Man, though a short-lived animal, grasps at the idea of perpetuity, and acts as if even his person were immortal.

NUM-

N U M B E R XXXVI.

UNITED PARISHES OF CORTACHY AND
CLOVA.

(County and Presbytery of Forfar.—Synod of Angus
and Mearns.)

By Mr WILLIAM HALDANE, Preacher of the Gospel.

Name, Situation, and Extent.

CORTACHY, or *Quartachy*, is derived from the Gaelic word *chuartach*, which signifies *enclosed* or *surrounded*. The name is descriptive of its local situation, as it lies in a small valley, surrounded by rising ground. The origin of the name CLOVA is uncertain. These united parishes lie on the north side of the county of Angus. The river *Prosen* separates them from the parishes of Kingoldrum and Kirriemuir, on the S. and S. W. The parish of Cortachy, from the extreme part on the south to its northern boundary on the Grampian hills, is about 13 miles in length. Its breadth varies. The north and middle parts are about 8 miles broad. Towards the south end, its breadth does not exceed two miles. The parish of Clova is situated on the north-west of Cortachy, and forms part of the Grampian mountains. It is about 10 miles long, from E. to W. and 7 broad. There is no map of the parish; nor has the number of acres been ascertained.

Soil

Soil and Surface.—The soil of these united parishes is in general poor, upon a cold and wettish bottom. The haugh ground, on the banks of the Esk, is an open light soil, in many places interspersed with, or bordering on, peat moss. The greatest part of these parishes is mountainous, and calculated only for pasture. The hills in Cortachy are chiefly covered with heath, with a small mixture of rough grass along their sides. Those in Clova are, in general, green, producing excellent grass, and well adapted for sheep. In some places the hills are steep and rocky, and almost all of them abound with large whin-stone.

Climate and Diseases.—The air is sharp and piercing, particularly on the high grounds. That part of the united parishes, which is situated among the Grampian hills, is, in winter, generally covered with snow to a great depth, which often is not all dissolved before the months of June and July. The climate is favourable to health, and many of the inhabitants live to the age of 70 and 80 years. The most prevalent distempers are rheumatism and fevers, which are probably occasioned by the variations of the weather.

River, Lakes, and Fish.—The only river in the united parishes is the *Esk*. Originating among the Grampian hills, it passes through both parishes; and, after traversing a course of 16 miles to the eastward, empties itself into the sea at Montrose. It produces plenty of small trouts, but very few salmon; the latter being prevented from coming up by the number of cruives in the way. The only lakes deserving notice are *Loch Brandy* in the parish of Clova, and *Loch Churl* in the parish of Cortachy. They are situated on the north side of the Esk, nigh the summit of the Grampian hills, and are distant about 2 miles from each other. On the north side

they are bounded by a steep rock, and on the south they have outlets which communicate with the river below. Their form is circular, and they are about a mile and a half in circumference. These lakes abound with trouts of various sizes.

Hills.—The hills in these parishes are of a very considerable height, particularly those in Clova, which form part of the Grampians. They are partly conical, and partly almost perpendicular. The most romantic are those situated on the south-east end of the parish of Clova, and which, on the north and south side, encompass a beautiful valley about 4 miles in length, and half a mile in breadth. Here the stupenduous height of the mountain, contrasted with the delightful narrow plain below, exhibits a scene of grandeur and beauty united.

Quadrupeds and Birds.—The number of horses is about 400, and of black cattle 1200. The horses and cattle are generally of a small size. A horse of 5 years old brings, in the market, from 7 l. to 10 l. Sterling; a cow or ox, of 4 years old, from 4 l. to 6 l. The number of sheep may be about 8000 in summer, but fewer in winter. They are mostly of the black faced kind, bought, when a year old, in the Linton markets, in the months of June and July, and kept for four years. They are sold fat about Martinmas, to butchers, at the neighbouring markets. They bring from 12 s. to 16 s. a head. There are also white-faced sheep, but of a smaller size than the former. The number of swine in the parish is very small. The wild quadrupeds are deers, hares, and foxes. Of the winged tribe there are, besides tame fowl, muir fowl, wild ducks, partridges, and tarmacks.

Agriculture.

Agriculture.—Almost the only cultivated part of these united parishes, except what lies on the southern extremity, is that lying along the banks of the Esk, about 14 miles long and half a mile broad. The rest is hilly, or laid out for pasture. Considerable improvement of late has been made in agriculture, particularly in the lower part of the parish of Cortachy. Here the farmer observes a proper rotation in cropping; and the fields, after 3 years tillage, are sown out with grass seeds for 4 years. In the middle and upper districts of these united parishes, where sheep and cattle are the staple commodity, improvement in agriculture is not so much attended to; nor is the climate so favourable for raising corn as in the lower parts. If here the farmer can raise as much grain as will suffice for meal and seed, he seldom seeks farther, and trusts to his profits from sheep and cattle to pay his rents. The only manure on the parish is that which is made by the cattle on the farms. Some farmers, for the sake of improvement, drive marl from the loch of Kinordy, in the parish of Kirriemuir, which is about three miles distant from the southern boundary of the parish of Cortachy. Such of the farmers in the parish as can procure marl, are enabled to bring their farms into a state of high cultivation, and to raise excellent crops; but this species of manure can only be acquired by a few of them, by reason of their great distance from it.

The English plough has lately been introduced here; but that chiefly used is the Scotch plough. The harrow and cart used are of the common construction; the latter generally drawn by two horses. A good plough costs from 40 s. to 50 s.; a cart from 6 l. to 7 l.; and a harrow about 10 s. *

Crops,

* A ploughman, maintained in the family, receives, for wages, from 6 l. to 8 l. *per annum*. A labouring man, hired *per*

Crops, Seed-time, & Harvest.—These united parishes produce oats, barley, pease, flax, and potatoes. Turnips, white and red clover and rye-grass, are seldom sown, except in the vicinity of Cortachy, which lies on the southern extremity of the parish. The time of sowing oats generally commences about the 24th of March, and ends about the 24th of April. Barley sowing begins about the 8th of May, and ends about the 24th. Harvest is generally begun about the middle of September, and concluded by the first of November. There is little grain exported from this parish even in the most fruitful seasons. The crops are seldom sufficient to support the inhabitants; and often the farmers, in the upper districts, are under the necessity of buying seed corn. Here the principal dependence of the farmer is on his sheep and cattle *.

Wood, Fuel, and Minerals.—The only natural wood in the parish is allan, birch, hazel, and willow, which are to be found, in a few places, in small clumps along the banks of the Esk. There is only one fir plantation, deserving notice, lying near the

per day, receives from 8 d. to 10 d. with victuals; and if hired during the harvest season, he earns from 20 s. to 25 s. A mason, per day, gets from 18 d. to 20 d. and maintains himself. A taylor receives 8 d. with his maintainance; a maid servant, 3 l. *per annum*; and a carpenter, including victuals, 1 s. per day.

* The value of grain and provisions is very much regulated by the prices given in Kirriemuir, the nearest market town to this united parish. Their value also is according to their plenty or scarcity; but, on an average, the following may be considered as the prices of grain and provisions in this parish. Hay brings from 5 d. to 7 d. per stone, barley from 15 s. to 16 s. per boll, and oats from 13 s. to 15 s. A stone of flax gives from 10 s. to 13 s.; pease, from 13 s. to 14 s. per boll; potatoes, from 5 s. to 6 s. The average price of beef and mutton is 3 d. per lib. cheese 4 d. butter 9 d.; the last two articles have 27 ounces to the pound weight. A hen is sold at 10 d. a chicken at 3 d. and a duck at 7 d.

the southern extremity of the parish of Cortachy. Around the Castle of Cortachy, one of the seats of the Earl of Airley, there are various kinds of forest trees, as ash, elm, larch, plain, beech, &c. Adjoining the Castle, there is a large garden, abounding with several species of fruit trees, besides a hot-house for peach, nectarine, and vine trees. There are several mosses in the united parishes, most of them situated near the summit of the hills. Peats, turf, and heath, are the principal fuel. The only stone here, found fit for building, is whin-stone; but it cannot be dressed with an iron.

Population, &c.—The number of the inhabitants has decreased nearly a sixth part, within these 40 years *.

The return to Dr Webster, in 1755, was	1233
The number of souls, at present, is	1020

Decrease	213
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Of these there are,

Males	490	Weavers	7
Females	530	Millers	3
Farmers	76	Shop-keepers	3
Sub-tenants	81	Shoemaker	1
Smiths	3	Gardeners	4
Carpenters	4	Ale & whisky sellers	10
Annual average of births	-	-	22
marriages	-	-	7
deaths	-	-	15
Inhabited houses	-	-	218
Plough-gates	-	-	79

Pro-

* This decrease has been chiefly owing to the thriving state of manufactures in the several cities and villages of the county, and to the higher wages given in the more inland parts.

Proprietors and Rent.—The Proprietors of the united parishes are the Earl of Airley, and his brother the Hon. Walter Ogilvy of Clova.

Ecclesiastical State.—There are two churches in the united parishes; the one in Clova, the other at Cortachy. The distance between them is about 9 miles. Worship is performed in both on stated Sundays. The church in Clova was rebuilt in the year 1730, and is capable of containing 200 persons. The church of Cortachy was built about 300 years ago, and contains about 300 persons. The present state of the church of Cortachy, shews it to have undergone some reparation. One third of it is excellent workmanship, being of cut stone, nicely compacted; the remaining part is coarse, and seems to be of much later date. The value of the stipend, including a glebe of 6 acres, is 16 bolls of meal, 800 merks of money, and 20 merks for providing the communion elements. The manse was built about 50 years ago, and has been frequently repaired. Mr CHARLES GORDON, ordained in February 1774, is now minister of the united parishes. The family of Airley are patrons.

School and Poor.—The parochial school was rebuilt in the year 1785. The schoolmaster's salary is 100 merks, with a house and garden. The number of scholars in winter is between 50 and 60, but much fewer in summer. The fees for teaching are 1 s. per quarter for English; 1 s. 6 d. for writing, and 2 s. for arithmetic. The Latin language is not taught. The value of the office, including the emoluments arising from the dues of baptisms, certificates of marriages, and session-clerk's fees, may be estimated at 17 l. Sterling.—Seven persons, on an average, receive aid from the parochial funds. The weekly collection in the church, amounting

ing to about 10 l. *per annum*, fines exacted from delinquents, dues paid for the use of the mort-cloth, the annual rent of two galleries, one in each church, together with the interest of 130 l. laid out by the kirk-session, are the principal funds whence the poor are supplied.

General Character, &c.—The inhabitants are frugal and industrious, and enjoy, in a reasonable degree, the comforts and advantages of society. They are not fond of a military or sea-faring life. They seem contented with their situation and circumstances, and are regular in their attendance on the ordinances of public worship. There is no surgeon or lawyer in the united parish; and the inhabitants are all of the established religion, except 4 families of Episcopalians.

NUM

NUMBER XXXVII.

PARISH OF KELSO.

(County of Roxburgh.—Presbytery of Kelso.—Synod of Merse and Tiviotdale.)

By Doctor CHRISTOPHER DOUGLAS, Physician in Kelso.

Situation and Extent.

THIS district, formerly consisting of three separate parishes, viz. Kelso, Maxwell, and St. James's, is situated in the lower division of Roxburghshire or Tiviotdale, in N. lat. $55^{\circ} 36'$. in W. long. $1^{\circ} 20'$. It is of an irregular triangular figure, extending in length, from N. to S. $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and in breadth, from E. to W. $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles. It contains from 5000 to 6000 acres. On the E. the parish of Sprouston separates it from Northumberland. The rivers Tweed and Tiviot unite at Kelso. The former divides the parish nearly into two equal parts. St. James's lies between the two rivers; Maxwell on the S. E. and Kelso on the N. and W. of both.

Rent and Proprietors.—The valued rent is 15,300 l. Scotch. The real rent, including the land in possession of the proprietors, which is by far the greatest part of the parish, is from 7000 l. to 8000 l. Sterling. The land, in this part of the country, is all measured by the English acre. It lets at 2 l. 3 l. 4 l. and sometimes 5 l. per acre, and little or none, even in the remote part of the parish, under 15 s. The Duke of Rox-

Roxburgh, superior of the town and the greatest part of the parish, resides above half the year at Fleurs. Besides his Grace, the following heritors also reside in the parish; Sir George Douglas, Bart. Rear-Admiral William Dickson, Robert Davidson of Pinnacle-hill, Robert Walker of Wooden, John Proctor of Softlaw Tower, Esqs; Capt. Scott of Rosebank, Rev. Dr Panton, Dr Blaw, and many others of smaller property.

Soil, Agriculture, and Produce.—The soil of this parish, for a considerable tract on both sides of the river Tweed, and in that part of it which lies between the Tweed and the Tiviot, is in general composed of a deep rich loam, upon a bottom of gravel; from its favourable situation, and the culture it receives, it produces early and luxuriant crops. Towards the N. W. extremity of the parish, the soil is a wet clay; in the S. it is in general thin and wet, and the bottom is a red clay; here the crops are generally three weeks later than in the vicinity of the rivers. About 20 years ago, it was a common practice to divide the cultivated land into six equal parts, each of which, in regular succession, got a summer fallowing, and all the dung that the farm produced, lime being then seldom used in agriculture. The crop immediately after the fallow was always wheat, the second barley, the third oats, the fourth pease, and the fifth oats or wheat; after these crops it was often laid out into pasture, sometimes fallowed again. By this management the lands were always foul, so that the crops, excepting the first, and sometimes the second, were mostly poor. But lime having of late been very generally employed as a manure, and turnips, potatoes, and sown grasses introduced along with it, the following rotation is adopted with success through the

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whole parish. The land in tillage is divided into four equal parts, one of which is sown with turnips, or planted with potatoes; for both, the land must be carefully cleaned and pulverised, as well as manured. The common practice is to sow turnips on ridges 30 inches wide, and the season most proper for this is, from the 10th to the end of June; when sown earlier, they are apt to shoot in autumn; and, if later, they seldom grow to a large size. Potatoes are planted from the middle to the end of April, in ridges 30 inches asunder. The succeeding crop is either barley or spring wheat, which is thought by many to answer as well as when sown in autumn; the third hay, and the fourth oats or wheat, unless the land has been laid down for pasture, in which case a fourth of the old grass land is ploughed up, and sown with oats; sometimes the third crop is pease instead of hay, but this practice is every day less prevalent. By this mode of cultivation, the crops are good, the land kept clean and rich, and at an expence comparatively small. Upon some fields of a clay soil, the management is a summer fallow, with the following rotation of crops, first wheat, second pease or beans, third barley, fourth oats; and upon very poor land of this kind, when too wet for turnips, and too wet as well as too weak for wheat, after a summer fallow the first crop is wheat, the second hay, and the third, if not left for pasture, oats. A considerable part of this parish is kept in grass, and pastured with sheep and black cattle; but as most of the fields are let for a summer pasture only, it is impossible to ascertain the number of sheep and cattle that are fattened in the parish upon grass and turnips during the year. It is however well known, that, owing to the high price of wool, and the constant demand for sheep and cattle, both
at

at the Edinburgh and Morpeth markets, nothing has paid better for many years past *.

Bridges.—At Kelso there is an elegant bridge over the Tweed, consisting of six beautiful arches, built in the year 1756, by a subscription from the county at large, but particularly by the inhabitants of this parish of every denomination, who distinguished themselves by their liberality. An act of Parliament has lately passed, for building a bridge over the Tiviot, a little above its junction with the Tweed, which will make a free communication with the west part of the county, much wanted, and likely to prove, in many respects, highly advantageous to the public.

Antiquities.—A considerable part of the ABBEY of Kelso †, formerly an immense edifice, still remains, and exhibits a venerable monument of that taste for magnificence, which
distinguishes

* The common hire of a labourer, per day, is from 1 s. to 16 d. but, in hay time and harvest, from 16 d. to 20 d. Male servants, maintained in the house, receive from 6 to 8 guineas yearly; women, from 3 l. to 4 l. 10 s. Most of the men servants, however, are hired as hinds. Their wages, at an average, amount to 18 l. a year. A great part of the summer work, such as hay-making, hoeing of turnips, potatoes, &c. is performed by young girls, who, being early accustomed to use the hoe, are more expert at this work than the men. They receive from 4 d. to 8 d. and country masons and carpenters, from 16 d. to 22 d. per day, without victuals.

† The Abbey of Kelso was built by St David, king of Scotland: He had a predilection for an order of monks called Tyronenses, whom he first planted at Selkirk; but not thinking it an eligible situation for his favourites, he soon removed them to Roxburgh, (in 1126), and at last translated them to Kelso, where he, in 1128, founded for them a magnificent church, and other buildings in the Saxon stile. This abbey was dedicated to the Virgin MARY and St. JOHN the Evangelist;

distinguished antient times. But, while it contributes to the ornament of the surrounding country, and the pleasure of specta-

gelist: Its privileges were very considerable, and its endowments liberal. The monks were exempted from toll, and leave was granted to them and the abbot, to receive the sacraments of the church from any bishop they pleased, in Scotland and Cumberland. The abbot was allowed to wear a mitre, to make use of other pontifical distinctions, and to be present at all general councils. It is related, that this order was particularly attentive to agriculture, and that, besides husbandmen, they maintained within their monastery all kinds of mechanics, whose profits were deposited in the common stock, for the support of the order. If this was the case, David shewed good sense and reason, in patronizing an order of men, who promoted the improvement of the arts, as well as the interests of religion, in an age when science and philosophy, feebly, if at all, illuminated the kingdom. Small fragments of pillars, antique stones, statues, &c. evidently belonging to the abbey, have been found at different times, and some of them are still to be seen at a considerable distance from the fabric, affording a lively, though melancholy emblem of the all-subduing power of time.

The church of St. JAMES's was situated between the rivers Tweed and Tiviot, near to Roxburgh Castle, and on the very spot on which the greatest fair in this country, as well as one of the most antient, called St James's Fair, is now held. This church was dedicated, *anno* 1134. No part of it remains above ground, but the place where it stood is perfectly obvious. The Duke of Roxburgh, a few years ago, employed labourers to trace the foundation. While carrying on this work, they dug up a tomb-stone, which had been erected to the memory of JOHANNA BULLOCK. It was pretty entire; and, besides some elegant Popish sculpture, had the following inscription in Saxon characters, *Hic jacet Johanna Bullock, quae obiit anno 1371. Orate pro anima ejus.* Historians mention a WILLIAM BULLOCK, a favourite with EDWARD BALIOL, and generally stiled the King's beloved Clerk. As this name is seldom found in Scotland, it is probable that Johanna Bullock was the daughter, or a near relation, of this eminent person, especially as he frequently resided at Roxburgh Castle. There was also found a considerable quantity of wheat and barley, in a charred state, scattered on a tiled pavement; as were also several pieces of glass and brick, which shewed obvious marks of fire. All these circum-

spectators, it, at the same time, recalls the mortifying remembrance of that rudeness and barbarity, with which neighbouring kingdoms carried on hostilities against each other. The venerable appearance of this ruin is marred, by the addition of an aisle built in the last century, for the accommodation of the family of Roxburgh, when part of the building was used for the parish church. This uncouth modern addition entirely shuts up one very large arch, and the half of another, besides 7 of a smaller size above; but from the value which the Duke of Roxburgh puts upon it as a ruin; and from his desire to preserve it in its pristine state, there is much cause to hope, that we shall soon see this modern building levelled with the ground, and the genuine antient remains secured from injury by an inclosure. It has not, like most of the Gothic buildings, any minuteness of ornament, but has a tendency, by its plainness and magnitude, to inspire the mind with the grand and the sublime, rather than the pleasing and beautiful.

ROXBURGH CASTLE * stands upon an eminence of considerable

circumstances render it probable, that this church was burnt down in some of the border wars.

At a small distance from this church, stood a convent of mendicants of the order of St. Francis, on the north bank of the river Tiviot, a little above its confluence with the Tweed. Within these few years, a fine arch of their church remained, and other parts of the building, which are now almost wholly effaced. This monastery was consecrated by William Bishop of Glasgow, in the year 1235.—In the parish of Maxwell, south of the Tiviot, and nearly opposite to Roxburgh Castle, stood *Maison Dieu*, an asylum for pilgrims, the diseased, and the indigent. The site of this house is well known; and upon the very spot where it stood there still remains a village, bearing the antient name. The guardian of this house, NICHOL DE CHAPELYN, did homage to EDWARD I. of England *anno* 1296.

* The many struggles, which the two kingdoms had, for the possession

considerable extent, and is surrounded with a deep trench, still visible, which the garrison could fill with water at pleasure, and over which a draw-bridge was placed. The wall which surrounded the fortress is in a great measure destroyed, but some parts of it still remain pretty entire, which display amazing strength from their thickness and solidity.—Upon Mr Walker's estate at Wooden, there are the vestiges of a Roman tumulus *. There are also several of the same kind in different

possession of this fortress, render its history of more importance than that of any near the borders. It frequently changed masters; and, in the reign of HENRY VI. was in the possession of that monarch. JAMES II. of Scotland having laid siege to it, his army made themselves masters of the Castle, in a great measure destroyed the works, and reduced it to ruins; but, previous to the victory, the king was killed by the bursting of a piece of ordnance. A holly tree is said to stand on the spot where this happened, on the north side of the river Tweed, and a little below Fleurs house. Near this tree stood a large village, which, from a cross that remained within these few years, was generally called the *Fair Cross*. But the probable origin of the name, as it has been handed down, though not generally known, is this: James II's Queen, having very soon reached the spot where the lifeless body of her husband lay, is reported to have exclaimed, "There lies the *fair corpse*," whereupon it received the name of *Fair Corpse* or *Corse*; and, in process of time, the change from *corse* to *cross* was easily effected. The Queen, soon after this fatal accident, observing that the army was disheartened, and that the chiefs were for raising the siege, used every means to excite their courage, and, among other things, told them, that although their king had fallen, he was but one man, and that she would soon give them another king, her son James III. who next day arrived in the camp, and was crowned in Kelso in the 7th year of his age. This heroic and well timed address, produced the desired effect; the spirits of the whole army were roused; and, renewing the attack with redoubled ardor, the garrison surrendered in a few days. From this period the Castle has remained in ruins, although it was in some degree repaired, by the Lord Protector, Somerset, in the reign of Edward VI.

* This tumulus consisted of a vast number of stones, piled upon

different parts of the country, generally known by the name of *Cairns*.

Pictureſque Scenery.—The variety of charming proſpects, which this part of the country exhibits, renders it a difficult taſk to ſelect any of them. The views, however, preſented from the caſtle of Roxburgh and the Fleurs, deſerve particular notice ; but to attempt an enumeration of their beauties, were to no purpoſe ; for to be in any degree conceived, they muſt be ſeen. The ſcene which appears from Kelſo bridge, and has often called forth the powers of the painter, partakes ſo much of the pictureſque and elegant, that it excites the admiration of every ſpectator. From this the town is ſeen, with the majeſtic ruins of the ancient abbey, and the handſome modern fabric of Ednam houſe ; at no great diſtance to the north-weſt, the lofty building of Fleurs ; between the rivers, the remains of Roxburgh caſtle ; near to this Springwood-park ; towards the eaſt, Pinnacle-hill and Wooden ; at the diſtance of a few miles, the Eildon hills riſing in perſpective ; as likewiſe the ruins of Home Caſtle, the hills of Stichell, and of Mellerſtain ; add to theſe, the winding courſe of the rivers, before their junction, with an iſland in each ; one of theſe, and the banks of both rivers, covered with beautiful wood ; the ſteep precipices of Maxwell, and Chalk-heugh, and a variety of other fine objects. All theſe muſt induce every ſpectator of taſte, to exclaim, with enthuſiaſtic pleaſure,

Hic

upon each other, and ſecured by a moſs ; neither the ſame ſpecies of ſtone nor moſs are now to be found in this pariſh. Near a ſmall rivulet on the ſame eſtate, ſkeletons have been diſcovered incloſed in ſtone coffins.

Hic gelidi fontes; hic mollia prata, Lycori,
Hic nemus; hic ipso tecum consumerer aevo.

Town of KELSO.—Kelso, anciently, Calchow, Kelkow, or de Calco, is situated on the river Tweed, in an extensive plain, bounded on all sides by gently rising grounds, covered with fine forest trees, forming a most beautiful amphitheatre. Its situation is particularly taken notice of by Patten, who accompanied the Lord Protector, Somerset, into Scotland, and who calls it a pretty market town.

During the border wars, which long spread desolation and misery over this country, Kelso was thrice burnt down by the English: It was also reduced to ashes, in the year 1686, by an accidental fire; and nearly so by another, about 50 years ago. At present, it is a handsome town, containing many good houses, with a spacious market place 300 feet in length, and 200 in breadth; from hence, as a central point, proceed four long streets, and two considerable lanes. In the square stands the town house, the principal houses, and shops, many of which would do no discredit to the capital of any country.

Name.—Kelso is probably derived from the word Calx. This conjecture seems the more probable, from an eminence on Tweed side, on which part of the town stands. This height is called the Chalk-heugh, or Calchow, one of the ancient names of the town, and contains a great quantity of Gypsum, and other calcareous matters; all which, in the Celtic language, were denominated Kelk, hence Kelkon; and the Monks denominated the seal of the ancient monastery, *Sigillum Monasterii de Calco*. This eminence also affords a delightful prospect, which, by some, is thought to eclipse that from the bridge.

Government

Government of the Town.—The Duke of Roxburgh, as lay proprietor of the lands and abbey of Kelfo, is Lord of the Manor. His Grace's ancestor, Sir Robert Ker of Cessford, obtained this grant from James I. of England, anno 1605, on the forfeiture of Edward Earl of Bothwell, Admiral of Scotland, when it was probably made a burgh of barony.

Kelfo is governed by a Baron Bailie, appointed by the Duke, and fifteen stent-masters, of whom the Duke nominates seven. The other eight consists of the Preses of the Merchant Company, a Deacon Convener, the Deacons of the five following Corporations, Hammermen, Skinners, Shoemakers, Taylors, Weavers, and the Deacon of the Butchers, although they are not incorporated. The stent-masters, under the authority of the Baron Bailie, are entrusted with the power of imposing a stent or tax upon the inhabitants, as they judge their circumstances may afford. This is levied for the purpose of supplying the inhabitants with water, conveyed by leaden pipes, to different parts of the town, for repairing the streets, keeping the town clock in order, paying part of the schoolmaster's salaries, and for several other incidents.

Sects and Religious Houses.—Besides the established church, and an Episcopal chapel, there are a number of sects, each of which has a house for public worship, and some of them are even elegant. These are the kirk of Relief, Burghers, Antiburghers, Cameronians, Methodists, and Quakers. There are three Roman Catholics, and one Jew in the parish. The major part of the inhabitants, particularly of the genteel class, attend the parish church, and Episcopal chapel. The meeting-houses are chiefly supported by inhabitants of different parishes in the vicinity. This place, being central and convenient, induces them to build here. The Parochial

church and Episcopal chapel are both new ; the former, a spacious octagon, with a handsome dome, and constructed to accomodate three thousand hearers ; the latter, a small neat gothic building, and has lately been ornamented with an organ.

Population.—In the year 1749, the number of inhabitants was 2900. The return from Dr Webster, in 1755, was 2781, and the number at present amounts to 4324. The annexed table contains an exact statement of the number of houses, families, males, and females, in the town and country divisions of the parish, as drawn up from an actual survey made last year, 1792.

Houses in the town	376	Skinners	-	-	20
Families in ditto	- 826	Weavers	-	-	60
Males in ditto	- 1644	Optician	-	-	1
Females in ditto	- 1913	Dyers and clothiers			3
Number of souls in ditto	3557	Tailors	-	-	47
Under 10	- - 933	Upholsterers	-	-	2
From 10 to 20	- 713	Brewers	-	-	2
From 20 to 50	- 1416	Plasterers	-	-	6
From 50 to 70	- 393	Carpenters	-	-	60
From 70 to 100	- 102	Midwives	-	-	6
Houses in the country	126	Masons	-	-	40
Families in ditto	- 127	Smiths	-	-	15
Males in ditto	- 365	Copper and white iron			
Females in ditto	- 402	smiths	-	-	6
Number of souls in ditto	767	Staymakers	-	-	3
Under 10	- - 193	House painters	-	-	2
From 10 to 20	- 141	Glovers	-	-	4
From 20 to 50	- 334	Carriers	-	-	3
From 50 to 70	- 78	Carters	-	-	40
From 70 to 100	- 21	Labourers	-	-	162
					Cler-

Clergymen	-	-	7	Stocking weavers	-	-	7
Medical practitioners			6	Gardeners	-	-	10
Writers or attorneys			11	Nailers	-	-	7
Schoolmasters	-		7	Cutlers	-	-	3
Bookfellers and printers			2	Watchmakers	-		4
Shopkeepers	-		30	Glaziers	-	-	2
Bakers	-	-	32	Barbers and hair-dressers			6
Butchers	-	-	24	Milliners	-	-	4
Inn and alehouse keepers			40	Mantua-makers	-		8
Saddlers	-	-	12	Pastry cooks	-	-	2
Shoemakers	-		147				

The disproportion between the average number of each family of the town and country, is owing to the number of widows and single women, who live more conveniently in the town, and get employment more readily than in the country. In 38 years, the increase of inhabitants has been 1543. This great increase may, in part, be accounted for, from the destruction of many villages in the neighbourhood, occupied by small farmers and mechanics. From the enlargement of the farms, many were obliged to follow other trades, and Kelso being the metropolis of the district, they flocked there for habitations and employment; and, in proportion as labourers and mechanics have become fewer in the country, Kelso increased in population.

Fairs, Markets, Manufactures, &c.—The weekly market day is Friday. There are twelve high markets in the year, two before and one after the term days of Whitsunday and Martinmas; the two first are for hiring male and female servants; the last is generally employed by the servants in mirth, and in laying out their wages before they enter again into

into service. On these days, the concourse of people being great, and beyond what is known on the like occasions in any part of Scotland, it is productive of immense profits to the shopkeepers, milliners, &c. among whom they lay out incredible sums of money, principally for wearing apparel, and female ornaments. The other six high market days are in March and the end of autumn; the former for purchasing horses for summer work, such as, driving lime, coal, &c.; which being over, they sell the horses again before winter sets in, owing to the high price of fodder at this season.

There are three fairs in the parish, including St. James's, which is held on the 5th of August; two in the town, one of these on the 10th of July, the other on the 2d of November. When these fairs were established, they were wisely designed; the first was for buying lean cattle, to be fed during the summer and autumn months, upon meadow and pasture ground; and, when fat, they were brought to market, and sold for winter and spring food, called Marts, being immediately killed and salted. In these days, fresh meat was not to be got during winter; but, since the introduction of turnip husbandry, the market is plentifully supplied with the very best fed cattle during the whole year. The summer fair being no longer of its original use, it would be a great advantage to the stockholders, to have it altered to the end of August; this would suit dealers in cattle to purchase, at a convenient time, to drive them south to Woolpitt market, held in September. Fairs ought to succeed one another from north to south, until stocks arrive in London, the *ne plus ultra*. The great concourse of people, of all descriptions, who attend the weekly markets, is the principal source from whence the inhabitants derive their support; but, of all other ranks in society, they are most obliged to the farmers, who come here in great numbers to sell immense quantities of
of

of grain, particularly wheat, all by the sample. They are a most respectable body. Their farms, advanced to the most perfect state of cultivation, shew, that, in ingenuity and industry, they are not inferior to the farmers of any other country; and with respect to depth of information and liberality of sentiment, they ought to be esteemed what they really are, a society of independent country gentlemen.

Articles of Trade.—The shopkeepers, who are the most respectable class of traders, deal to a great extent, in all kinds of woollen drapery, haberdashery, hosiery goods, groceries, and hard wares; and have likewise a great demand for various kinds of grass seeds. These different articles amount to a great sum; but, from the difficulty of ascertaining it, I forbear giving a statement; it may, however, be curious and interesting to mention the quantities of exciseable wines, spirits, &c. consumed yearly in Kelfo, and the adjacent country, exclusive of what is commissioned by people of the higher rank, from wine merchants at a distance.

					Gallons.
British spirits	-	-	-	-	17690
Foreign spirits	-	-	-	-	2028
Foreign wine, French	-	-	-	-	220
Foreign wine, not French	-	-	-	-	2560
					libs.
Green tea	-	-	-	-	272
Black tea	-	-	-	-	10292
Coffee	-	-	-	-	388

The bakers make into bread 3000 Winchester quarters of wheat flour annually. The brewers make 2570 barrels
of

of strong ale and beer, each containing 36 English ale gallons. The butchers have lately been accommodated, by the Duke of Roxburgh, with a large and excellent market place. Upon an average, they kill annually,

Black cattle	-	-	-	700
Calves	-	-	-	620
Sheep and lambs	-	-	-	8000
Swine	-	-	-	600

The skinners dress from 70 to 80000 sheep and lamb skins. They also send to Manchester and other places, the wool of 40 or 50000 *mort* skins. These are, the skins of lambs, either brought forth dead, or which die early. They likewise collect and send away above 5000 hare skins*. The shoemakers, by far the most numerous class, make annually 30,000 pair of shoes, and from 3 to 400 pair of boots. These are all sold at different fairs in Northumberland, and in Kelfo market. The high wages the journeymen receive, and the price of leather, precludes masters from the benefit of exportation.

The weavers yearly make about 20,000 yards of flannel, or what are locally called, plains; and from 9 to 10,000 of different kinds of linen, which they call custom work. Stocking weavers work annually from 3 to 400 dozen of pairs. Dyers and clothiers are principally employed in dying, and dressing, what they call country work, made by individuals for private use, in pieces from 50 to 60 yards in length. They also dye home-made cotton pieces for private wearing. The copper and white-iron smiths, sell every article

* Of rabbit, fox, polecat, and otter skins, from 500 to 600.

article of kitchen utensils, tea kettles, &c. and have a great demand for them at all the markets *.

Prices of Provisions.—Grain, by the Winchester quarter, has sold for some years past, in Kelfo market, at the following average prices :

Wheat	L. 2 0 0	Pease	L. 1 5 0
Barley	1 0 0	Beans	1 5 0
Oats	0 15 0	Rye	1 0 0

Beef,

* It is but justice, due to merit, to make particular mention of JOHN GIBSON optician in Kelfo, as a man of genius, who has made several improvements in optical instruments. His rectifying telescopes shew objects very distinctly, by rendering them brighter, and more free from tremors, than any we have seen. This arises partly from the composition of the specula, all of which he casts himself, and partly from the correct figure and high polish he gives them. He has invented a reflecting microscope, which shews minute objects, with much greater exactness, than any made upon the refracting principle. The construction of it is very simple, and it is easily managed, and adapted to show both opaque and transparent objects, which can be applied to it with much facility. He has been equally successful in the execution and improvement of the achromatic telescopes. He observed, that, in the best of these instruments, some of the colours were not corrected, and found that it lay in the principle; for, on examining the nature of the crown and flint glass, of which they are made, he discovered, that the distance of the colours, in the oblong images, formed by prisms, made of these kinds of glass, were not similar; and, therefore, that all the different coloured rays, could not be united in the same point. Whether, by using flint glass of a different composition, or by some other device, we know not; but he has not only overcome this error in the principle, but likewise that arising from the spherical figure of the compound lens. Some of his telescopes, $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet in length, with triple object glasses, bear, with the greatest distinctness, a magnifying power of more than 240 times. These telescopes he makes of four different lengths, one foot, two, three, four and a half feet, and mounts them either in sliding tubes or on stands, by which they are fitted for astronomical purposes.

Beef, mutton, veal, and lamb, are from 3d. to 5d. per lib. Dutch weight; pork is somewhat less in value: Butter from 8d. to 10d. per lib. of 24 oz.; Cheese from 4s. to 5s. the English stone. A goose 2s.; A turkey from 2s. 6d. to 3s. and 4. A fowl from 10d. to 1s.; and chickens 4d. to 6d. each. Eggs from 3d. to 6d. per dozen. Coals from 9s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. per cart, containing 12 cwt. This article has of late been higher, but is again approaching to the old price. This market is well supplied with fish of various kinds; and, upon the whole, at a cheap rate, considering the distance from the sea, but, as the price varies much, no average can be fixed; salmon, early in the year, being sent to London, even when caught at Kelfo, will bring 1s. 6d. per lib. The great salmon fisheries upon Tweed, are near the mouth of the river; they gradually lessen in value, as they become more distant from the sea.

Ecclesiastical State, Schools, and Poor.—The stipend is, in money and victual, 100 guineas, per annum, exclusive of a house and garden, and a valuable glebe, measuring between six and seven acres. It is worthy of remark, that, during this century, there have been but two incumbents, Mr Ramsay, and the present much esteemed and worthy pastor, Mr Cornelius Lundie.

There are two established schools, one for Latin, and the other for English. The tutor has a salary of 22l. per annum, a house and garden, and 5s. per quarter for each of his pupils. He has about 50 scholars. The office of session-clerk, is generally annexed to his employment, which is worth about 12l. a year. The English master's salary is 5l. 13s.; 2s. 6d. and 3s. 6d. per quarter from his pupils; the first for being taught reading; the second reading and writing; and the third arithmetic, in addition to the other two

two. His scholars are from 100 to 130. There are also four other English schools, one of them taught by the clerk of the chapel, and in good reputation. Besides these, there are female teachers, for instructing girls in sewing. A recent institution, which does credit to the founders, and which, it is hoped, will turn out to their advantage, and to that of the public in géneral, is *a school of industry*, in which employment is given to poor girls, who have stated hours for sewing, knitting, and tambouring, for learning to read and write, and for inculcating moral duties.

In the year 1782, there were 57 pensioners on the poor's-roll; in April 1792, their number amounted to 92, of whom 23 were men, 48 women, and 21 children. Their weekly allowance came to 5 l. 6 s. 5 d. of which the heritors paid 3 l. 14 s. 6 d. and the town 1 l. 3 s. 7 d.; the balance was made up by part of the money arising from charitable legacies.

Births and Deaths.—The births amount to about 200 annually, but, owing to the number of dissenters from the established church, and others who neglect to register their baptisms, it is impossible to ascertain the number. Surely the small tax for registration, which may in future be of essential consequence to the children, and of present information to the public, ought to be enforced.—For five years successively, the deaths, upon an average, amounted to 134, so that only one out of 32 die in the year.

Climate and Diseases.—Easterly winds, accompanied with frost, fleet, and moisture, prevail here, as well as upon the whole east coast, for three or four months in the year. They produce intermitting fevers, rheumatism, and other febrile

affections, and never fail to aggravate the complaints of valetudinarians; yet, from the very favourable situation of the town, their baneful effects are less felt here, than in any other spot in the country. There is no situation in the north where the climate is so mild; which the author has observed when travelling south in the spring, when the foliage of the hedges and trees was more advanced about Kelso, than in any situation north of York.

It is true that the climate becomes colder in proportion as one ascends from the Tweed, so much so, that at a mile or two south or north from Kelso, a considerable change is felt in the air, and strongly marked in the progress of vegetation.

However healthy the people are in this parish, which is obvious from those proportion the advanced in life bear to the whole number, and from only 1 in 32 dying annually, yet many of the young and beautiful fall victims to consumptions, and other scrophulous affections. These diseases are frequent over all the north of England and south of Scotland. This may in part be owing to the prevailing cold east winds obstructing perspiration; to the constant vicissitude of weather, to which our insular situation subjects us; and to the inhabitants not paying due attention to their clothing, nor to their persons, in point of cleanliness. Their diet, though chiefly farinaceous, and esteemed wholesome, from the quantity which the labouring class use daily, may be one cause of laying the foundation of glandular and visceral diseases. Although the mechanics in town generally eat meat for dinner, the labourers in town and country seldom do so; but one and all of them live much upon hasty pudding, and boiled potatoes with milk; without deviation, they all breakfast or sup upon the one or the other. Most of the adults eat of this food, at a meal, from 6 to 8 English pounds

pounds weight, including milk; children in proportion: Surely this amazing quantity of food must injure the tone of the stomach, and, from the air let loose in digestion, to what an immense magnitude may it not be distended, by which the whole chylopoetic viscera must be much oppressed. Hence flatulency and indigestion arise, which is soon followed by bad concocted chyle, which gradually debilitates the system, and is followed by glandular affections, easily observed in the large bellies of children, owing to the mesenteric glands being obstructed. Other scrophulous symptoms gradually succeed, and tubercles being formed in the lungs, ultimately produce consumptions. The same causes, which excite pulmonary affections in the young, lay the foundation for visceral obstructions in the more advanced in life. This is obvious from the state of Kelfo Dispensary. Last year there were 604 medical patients admitted upon that charity, out of these 236 were affected with one or other of these complaints. In 27 deaths (the number reported for the year) 18 died of these diseases; and without doubt there were many more, whose deaths not being intimated to the governor, could not be published in the statement.

A scrophulous affection often remains dormant in the system for years; and were it not for exciting causes which produce inflammation in the glands, many would live to old age, who now fall victims to this disease; these are, severe labour, sudden change from vegetable to animal food, the too frequent use of spirituous liquors, exposure to cold, which suddenly obstructs perspiration, particularly after such exercises as accelerate the circulation of the blood, and determine to the lungs, as running, leaping, dancing, &c.

Excepting diseases peculiar to children, epidemics seldom or never prevail in Kelfo. About 4 years ago, a putrid fever was introduced by a patient from the country; it spread,
and

and proved fatal to many. The weather at the time was warm, and the air moist; but it would not probably have proved so baneful, had proper attention been paid to cleaning the gutters of the streets, and to cleanliness in general. The greatest part of the town stands upon a level, it therefore requires particular attention, to prevent water and filth of every kind from stagnating. This stigma is by no means more applicable to the inhabitants of Kelso, than to the north in general. Did they but know what a *fomes* for disease uncleanness produces, they would instantly follow the example of their southern neighbours, who, as a late author observes, are now as remarkable for that particular attention to cleanliness, as they were two centuries ago for the contrary extreme. To the last cause, the frequent visitation of the plague has been often attributed; for ever since they became cleanly in their persons, houses, and streets, this dreadful disease has not once appeared among them.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The uncommon fertility of this country affording all the necessaries of life in abundance, and at a moderate price, its population, and the amazing number of sheep, bred upon the Cheviot and Lammermuir hills, whose wool and skins are sent to the most distant parts of the island, are circumstances so peculiarly favourable to manufactures, that one is naturally led to expect, that here they must be established and flourish; yet hitherto, unfortunately, none of any consequence has been instituted, the Kelso plains being the only one ever attempted, and even this does not increase. In general, this is supposed to be owing to the distance, and high price of coals. This opinion, however, seems not to be altogether well founded, as in many English manufacturing towns, and even in Hawick and Galashiels, the one 20, and the other only 16 miles from Kelso,

Kelfo, coal is brought from a much greater distance, and sold at a higher price, than in Kelfo, yet in these towns they flourish, and are carried on to a considerable extent; but although the demand were greater than it really is, if the roads leading to the coal hills were kept in proper repair, that necessary article would undoubtedly be procured at a much easier rate. It has been observed, that, in countries where agriculture is carried to such a degree of perfection as in this, manufactures are little if at all attended to. This may be accounted for in part, from the thirst of mankind after riches. Our farmers being by far the most opulent and prosperous class in the community, this naturally induces men of wealth to lay out their money in husbandry, persuaded that in this way they have the best reason to look for a certain and speedy return. But were manufactures established, they would soon exhibit another great source of wealth, and both would equally assist and derive advantage from each other.

The higher class of inhabitants in this parish are courteous in their manners, liberal in their sentiments, and benevolent in their dispositions. A public library, which has existed upwards of forty years, and can now boast of a collection of the best modern authors, being regularly supplied with every publication of merit; together with a coffee-house supplied with the London, Edinburgh, and Kelfo newspapers, have contributed to render them not less intelligent than agreeable. The proprietors of the library have lately resolved to erect a neat elegant house for the books, and for the accommodation of the librarian.

Many of the inhabitants have formed themselves into three different societies, the members paying a certain sum weekly, for the purpose of maintaining any of their number who may be sick; in cases of death, for defraying funeral expences,

pences, and giving a small annuity to their widows. Could societies like these be made general, they would supersede poor rates, and would afford to the indigent themselves, a much better subsistence than they can obtain from the other.

It is much to be regretted, that the elegant square in which the market is held, is not ornamented with a better town-house. The present is old and ruinous, and, from its construction, the receptacle of filth, and the harbour of vagabonds, who here lay their plans of depredation, which are too frequent among the idle and low class of whisky companions.

There is no satisfaction which renders the possession of riches more agreeable, than the power it gives the possessors of applying part to alleviate the distresses of the indigent. This country has happily many such, among whom the Hon. Mrs Baillie of Jerviswood appears most conspicuous. About 17 years ago, upon her suggesting the utility of a Dispensary, for the relief of the diseased among the lower orders of people, of all the parishes on both sides of the borders; the opulent, with a readiness that does equal credit to their honour and feelings, heartily concurred with her in advancing a sum more than sufficient for its immediate establishment, and providing for its support by an annual subscription. They have now a handsome convenient building, where the patients receive advice and medicines, and a spacious ward, to accommodate 12 patients who may stand in need of surgical assistance. The subscribers have now the satisfaction to see their funds yearly increase; and also the agreeable reflection of having contributed to the comfort and relief of between 8000 and 9000 persons, no less by preventing their running in debt to apothecaries, than by the medical assistance they have received.

It is matter of serious regret to every person of feeling and reflection, it strikes strangers with surprise, and impresses no favourable opinion of the inhabitants, that the church-yard, from being uninclosed, should have a number of roads running through it ; and that it should be covered with the skins of animals, which the skinners take the liberty of drying upon it ; and, owing to the same cause, there is nothing to prevent even swine from turning up the graves. The respect which mankind, in all ages and countries, whether refined or barbarous, have uniformly paid to the ashes of their ancestors, should of itself be a sufficient motive to induce the heritors and inhabitants to concur in inclosing it, and by this means to prevent strangers from entertaining sentiments and suspicions of them, for which no other part of their conduct can afford the least foundation.

NUM.

NUMBER XXXVIII.

UNITED PARISHES OF FALA AND
SOUTRA.

(Counties of Mid and East-Lothian.—Presbytery of
Dalkeith.—Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale).

By the Rev. Mr ARCHIBALD SINGERS, Minister.

Situation, Extent, Surface, and Prospect.

THE parish of Fala lies partly in Mid, and partly in East Lothian. Its greatest breadth, from north to south, is about 3, and its greatest length, from east to west, about 4 miles. The surface in general is nearly level, and interrupted by no considerable risings or fallings, till it approaches to the roots of Soutra hill. Soutra is the westernmost ridge of that chain of mountains, called the Lammermuir hills, which run along the upper part of the county of East Lothian, and terminate a little to the eastward of Dunbar. The height of Soutra is not accurately known, but is believed to be something about 1000 feet above the level of the sea. To a traveller coming from the south, the view from Soutra is most enchanting. Passing for a considerable way through a dreary muir, where nothing meets the eye but barren heath;—here all at once the fine cultivated counties of Mid and East Lothians, with the Frith of Forth, and coast of Fyfe, burst upon his view. The suddenness of the change, and the mingled group of hills, and dales, and woods, and waters, which now stretch extensive to the eye,
give

give such a throb of pleasure to the heart, as is not to be described.

Climate, Moss, Fuel, &c.—The air is sharp, but salubrious. It is sometimes, however, loaded with fogs, owing to the immediate vicinity of Soutra-hill and Fala-muir, which is extensive and wet. In this muir there is a small piece of water, called *the Flow*, which also gives its name to a good part of the marshy grounds, lying to the south and west of it. Of this moss, which contains some hundreds of acres, no use is at present made, but digging of peats for the small village of Fala. The proprietor, it is true, attempted last year a manufactory of peats, by charring and grinding them to a fine powder, for covering the moulds used in founderies; but this scheme has been given up. The draining of the muir would yield, in the end, the most certain profit to all concerned, and it would likewise add very much to the mildness of the air of Fala and its neighbourhood. Something of this sort, upon a small scale, has been attempted by the present tenant; but nothing effectual can be done without the interference of the proprietor, as no tenant would chuse to sink so considerable a sum, as the draining would require, upon the short lease of 20, or even 30 years.

Soil, Produce, and Sheep.—The lower part of the parish is mostly clay, and produces all the variety of crops which are usual in other parts of the Lothians. The upper part of the parish is mostly heath; and the crops commonly cultivated are barley and oats, with an interchange of turnips, grass, and potatoes. This upper, or muirland part, is by far the most extensive, comprehending nearly two thirds of the whole. It is at present divided into four farms, which together maintain about 144 score of sheep. The species of

sheep, reared on these farms, is a cross breed between the Gala Water and the Tweedsmuir, a species somewhat shorter than the Cheviot, though longer than the Tweedsmuir. But a gentleman from Edinburgh, now in possession of one of the farms, has much improved the breed by crossing it with the Cheviot. He tried also a Spanish ram, but found it did not answer. The wool, per stone, of late years, has sold at from 7 s. to 11 s. But nothing, perhaps, would more contribute to the improvement of the breed, as well as of the wool, than the laying down those lands, which are sown with corn, in pasture grass. This would, upon the whole, be even as profitable for the farmer; for though his gains might be sometimes less, yet they would be much surer. The reason is obvious—In this high part of the country, the crops in general are so very late, that they never come to full maturity. Besides, they are liable to so many risks, from winds, frost, and rain, which crops in a lower climate are not exposed to, that they are seldom got in in good condition. It sometimes, however, happens, that a dry season, such as the last has been, may enable the farmer to get in his corns pretty soon, and tolerably ripe; but this happens so very seldom, that it is truly surprising, that any man of consideration should ever venture to run the risk, especially as his lands might be otherwise laid out, to nearly an equal, and a more certain advantage: But a lucky season, like a lucky chance at cards or dice, induces the muirland farmer, with the gamester, still to venture another stake.

State of Improvement, &c.—The lands in general are well cultivated, and many of them inclosed. This high state of cultivation is, in a great measure, owing to the spirited exertions of the late Mr HAMILTON of Fala. He first set
the

the example of improving, by inclosing part of his estate with ditch and hedge, and sheltering their inclosures with clumps and belts of planting. This not only added to the general beauty of this part of the country, but excited a similar spirit of improvement in the neighbouring gentlemen. But a great deal more in this way remains still to be done. Soutra-hill is yet a large subject for improvement. If it were properly planted and inclosed, the parish of Fala might vie in picturesque beauty with any in the country.

Cattle and Rent.—The tillage of the parish is rated at $17\frac{1}{2}$ plough-gates. About 52 work horses are daily employed, for the purposes of agriculture, exclusive of saddle and young horses, which perhaps may amount to nearly as many. The number of black cattle, upon an average, may be 177.—The valued rent of the parish is 1326 l. 7s. 8d. Scotch; the real rent, about 1100 l. Sterling. In the year 1727, the real rental of the parish did not much exceed 400 l. Sterling, which, when compared with the present, shews, in an eminent degree, the now high state of cultivation.

Population *.—The number of inhabitants in this parish, which was taken last year (1792) with some accuracy, is as follows:

Men

* An exact statement of births and burials cannot here be given, as no accurate register of these is kept, owing partly to the negligence of the recorder, and partly to the parsimony of the inhabitants, who do not always chuse to pay the trifling fees of registration.—There are no remarkable instances of longevity in the parish, though there are several very healthy people between 70 and 80.

Men arrived at the age of maturity	113
Women ditto - - -	119
Male children - - -	61
Female ditto - - -	79
<hr/>	
Total	372
The population in 1755 was	312
<hr/>	
Increase	60

Village and Sectaries.—The only village in the parish, is Fala, which consists of a few miserable cottages, and contains about 100 inhabitants, young and old.—And the only dissenters are the Burgher Seceders. They have built a house in the village for public worship, as well as a house for their minister. The meeting, however, is not very numerous, and is chiefly made up from the neighbouring parishes.

Employments, Wages, and Manners.—As no foreign trade or manufactory is carried on in the parish, the inhabitants are mostly employed in agriculture. There are, however, 2 wrights, 1 smith, 1 baker, 3 masons, 3 taylors, and 3 weavers. A manufactory of cotton might be established here with some advantage, as there is plenty of water for the movement of the machinery, and the great road from Edinburgh to London leads directly through the village—Every kind of mechanical work is fully as high priced here as in Edinburgh. Male servants, employed in husbandry, have from 6 l. to 9 l. and female servants from 3 l. to 4 l. Sterling of yearly wages, exclusive of bed and board. Day-labourers have from 1 s. to 1 s. 6 d. per day. The manners of the common people are, in general, rather rough. This particular trait of character is, in some measure, owing to the
scarcity

scarcity of hands, and the high rate of wages, which makes them at once independent and insolent.

Poor.—The poor, at present upon the roll, are far from being numerous—a lucky circumstance for the heritors, as the funds for supporting them are wonderfully slender. They solely arise from the perquisites of a mort-cloth, which is so very ragged that nobody will use it; and the collections at the church door, which may amount, upon an average, to 1 s. every Sunday. This may be thought a very small collection, from the number of parishioners already stated; but it will not be found to be so very small, when we consider, that, in this part of the country, it is only fashionable for the lower classes of the people to attend the church. The higher orders are above the vulgar prejudices, of believing it necessary to worship the God of their fathers. They have long adopted the philosophy of France, in esteeming religion an useless burden to the state.

School, &c.—The schoolmaster's salary is not the largest in Scotland, being only 2 l. 4 s. 4 d. The school fees are in proportion. English is 1 s. 6 d. writing 2 s. and arithmetic 2 s. 6 d. per quarter;—*very great* encouragement indeed, for a man of abilities to be schoolmaster of Fala!

Church *.—Lady Dalrymple-Hamilton-McGill of Fala, and the city of Edinburgh, are joint patrons of the parish.—The church is small, and indifferently seated; but as no *great ones* attend, it does not much signify.—The manse is roomy and
con-

* The parish churches of *Soutra, Fala, Lampeth-law, Easter Wemyss, Kirkurd, Ormiston, and Gogar*, together with the lands of *Blance*, were annexed to the TRINITY COLLEGE CHURCH of Edinburgh, in the year 1529.

convenient ; but, though new, draws water through every part of the walls and roof exposed to the blast. The stipend is characteristic of the religion of our great folks, rather small.—Including an allowance for communion elements, it consists of 37 l. 12 s. 7 d. in money ; 20 bolls 2 firlots bear, and 24 bolls 2 firlots oats in grain ; which, when we consider the very inferior quality of corn in the muirland farms, that pay the most of it, seldom amounts to above 60 l. a year. If we take into the account the remarkable high prices of provisions here, this small sum is very inadequate to the maintainance of a family, unless they are clothed, like the Baptist of old, in *coats of skins* ; and live, too, like him, upon *locusts and wild honey*.

Antiquities.—Vulgar report says, that in the S. W. part of the parish, there are some traces of a Roman camp ; but these have been so often described, and so often mistaken, that the author of this article shall neither attempt a description, nor hazard a conjecture concerning them. The only authentic remains of antiquity, to be met with in the parish, are the ruins of an hospital* upon Soutra-hill.—On the
north

* This hospital was founded in the year 1164, by Malcolm IV. King of Scotland, for the relief of pilgrims, and for poor and sickly people. To this charitable institution, the royal founder annexed some lands near to St. Leonard's, in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh. It had also the privileges of a sanctuary, as appears from the name of the road leading to it, from the abbacy of Melrose. From Bridgend, about half a mile above Dornick to the west, on the south side of the Tweed, there has been a plain road or causeway, through the muirs to Soutra-hill, called the *Girthgate*, from the word *Girth*, which, in the Gaelic, signifies *an asylum* or *sanctuary*. The traces of this road are still visible in many places of the muir. Another circumstance, illustrative of Soutra's having formerly been a place of refuge, is, that about half a mile to the south of the hospital, there

north side of the hill, a little below where the hospital stood, there is a fountain of excellent water, which was dedicated to the Holy Trinity, still called *Trinity Well*.—This well, though

there is a small eminence or rising ground, still called *Cross-chain-hill*. It would appear that along this hill, and across the Girthgate, there had been a chain suspended for a considerable way, in the direction of east and west, to mark the boundaries of the privileged ground. Criminals, who had the happiness to pass or cross this chain, however closely pursued, were safe from every harm, and exempted from prosecution. ALEXANDER OF SOLTRA, or SAUTRA, is mentioned as master of this hospital in the year 1204; and, in 1292, PRYNNE, in his Collections, styles RODOLPHUS, "*Magister Hospitalis de Soitré*." JOHN HERIOT vicar of Soutra, is witness to several charters in the year 1467. Adjoining to the hospital, and under its jurisdiction, there was a church, dedicated to the Holy Trinity. This circumstance has led some authors into the belief of Soutra's having been a monastery; for under this appellation, we find DOUGLAS in his Peerage, uniformly styling it.

It does not appear, that ever this hospital was richly endowed; though several donations were made to it, at a very early period. Among the first of these donations, was that of the patronage of the church of Wemyss in Fife, made to it by SIR JOHN DE METHKIL, an ancestor of the Earl of WEMYSS. This donation runs in the following words: "*Dominus JOHANNES METHKIL, miles, &c.—dedisse, &c.—DEO, et ecclesiae Sanctae Trinitatis de SOLTRAY, magistro et fratribus ibidem DEO servientibus, &c. totum jus, quod habeo, vel habere potui, vel antecessores mei habere poterunt in ecclesia Sanctae MARIE de WEMYSS, pro anima mea, et anima comitis DUNCANI, et pro animabus patris et matris,*" &c. &c. Though this donation has no date, yet it appears to have been made in the end of the reign of King WILLIAM, who died in the year 1214. It was afterwards confirmed by Sir John's heir and successor, MICHAEL de WEMYSS. We find another donation, but of what nature is not certainly known, made to it, by Sir DAVID de GRÆME, to which *Dominus* ALEXANDER SEATON, of the noble family of WINTON, and *Magister* THOMAS de SEATON, are witnesses. This charter of donation has likewise no date; but it appears to have been made between the years 1226 and 1230. Sir JOHN de KEITH, Great Marishal of Scotland, confirms to Soltray, a donation of the lands of Johnston in East Lothian, of which he was superior, in the beginning of the reign of ALEXANDER III.

though it does not now appear to have any medicinal qualities, was formerly much celebrated, and much frequented by sick and diseased persons.—On the west of the hospital, there is a small house and offices, with a property of between 3 and 4 acres of land, belonging to one PRINGLE, which is said to have been a gift from King James V. for a night's lodging, when he was separated from his companions upon a hunting party. This small property has continued ever since in the same family, from father to son, without addition or diminution.—SAUTRA seems formerly to have been a very considerable village, and a place of much conviviality, if we may guess from the great number of public houses, said to have been in it. Now there is nothing to mark the happy spot where the village stood, but two or three wretched cottages, feeble remembrancers of its antient greatness.

“ Sweet smiling village, loveliest of the lawn,
“ Thy sports are fled, and all thy charms withdrawn;
“ Sunk are thy bowers in shapeless ruin all,
“ And the long grass o’ertops the mouldering wall.”

NUMBER XXXIX.

PARISH OF METHVEN.

(County and Presbytery of Perth.—Synod of Perth
and Stirling.)

By the Reverend Mr JOHN DOWE, Minister.

Origin of the Name.

THE name, in Gaelic, is said to signify *the Middle*, and, in that language, the adjective *dow*, or black, is commonly added in speaking of it; and the origin of that appellation was supposed to be, That it was situated nearly in the middle of the great valley, (or Strathmore,) on the south of the Grampian Mountains, which extend from Dunbarton to Stonehaven, and nearly at equal distance from those mountains, and the ridge of the Ochills, which there bound that valley on the south. Others contend, that the word *Methven* may be interpreted, *the Little Mountain*. This name is not descriptive of the situation of the village, which lies in a hollow; but in a good measure applies to the site of the Castle, which stands, with a dignified appearance, on pretty high ground. The village, which is now considerable, seems to have originated from a collegiate church, founded before the middle of the 15th century. But, it appears, that the old castle of Methven was of a much earlier date, and therefore communicated its name to the collegiate church.

Extent and Surface, &c.—This parish, from E. to W. is, at an average, about 5 English miles ; and between 3 and 4 from N. to S. The surface is agreeably varied by hollows and rising ground : But, in general, it slopes from north to south, where it terminates in a narrow plain, the west part of which is a morass, which supplies with peat the neighbouring inhabitants, and from whence two streams take their rise ; the most considerable of which runs westward into the Earn, and the other eastward into the Almond : Both have the name of *the Pow*. The cultivated soil is, in general, good ; one part clay, another loam, and a third gravel ; but the clay soil predominates. There is a tract of waste ground, above 800 acres, on the north side of the parish, which was a common, and is now divided. A considerable part of it is very improveable ; and it is hoped, that, in due time, the hand of persevering industry will transform the uncultivated heath, into verdant pastures and plentiful fields.

Rivers, &c.—The ALMOND, which bounds the greatest part of this parish on the N. and E. is a large and rapid current of water, and, in its course, turns a number of mills of various kinds. Its banks are bold and rocky, and in many places agreeably wooded. It furnishes some very picturesque and romantic views, as it passes the estate of Lednock, the property of Mr Graham of Balgowan. It was formerly well stored with fine trout, &c. ; but the late erection of a high dike to raise the water, which supplies the cotton spinning, and other works, of *Cromwell Park*, prevents almost every kind of fish from penetrating any farther ; and probably, in a short time, they will entirely desert the river.

Woods.

Woods.—The wood of Methven is the only natural one, of any extent, in the parish. It covers 172 Scotch acres, and is of considerable value to the proprietor, Lord Methven. It is cut in about 18 divisions, at the age of 25 years. It consists of oaks, many of which have been lately allowed to stand for timber, birch, &c. The hazel has been let at the rent of 12l. to a coal company, for above 20 years. The present wood lies a little eastward of the Castle, to which it is a great ornament; but anciently it extended a considerable distance to the south and west, as is evident from some old oaks still remaining in cultivated fields; and from an old farm which retains the name of Westwood or Woodhead. There are likewise some spots of natural wood, on the banks of the Almond.

*Agriculture and Produce, &c. *.*—Within these 20 years, the improvements in agriculture have been very great in this parish, as well as in other places; and, of consequence, the rents are much increased. This is owing to the use of lime, which is become very general, and is got at the port of Perth, either from Lord Elgin's lime works, on the Frith
of

* Thirty years ago, almost the whole of this parish was possessed in *Runrig*; the tenants of 3, 4, 5, or 6 ploughgates, living in one *Town*, as it was called, and occupying a large tract of ground in that manner. About one third of the land, next to the houses, was called *Infield*, or *Croft* land, and was cropped alternately with oats and barley, the whole dung being laid on with the barley. The remainder of the farm was called *Outfield*; of which one third, or more, was in oats, and the rest in pasture. The cattle were folded in summer, on that part of the outfield, which was to be broken up the ensuing season, after which 3 crops of oats were taken; and sometimes, if the ground did not seem to be quite exhausted, a fourth; after which it was left out for pasture, until it had so far recovered, as to be able again to undergo the same operation.

of Forth, or from Sunderland. Some years ago, there was also a good deal of marl discovered, with which some of the grounds have been manured. Tenants now see the error of over cropping their lands, after lime or marl, and therefore often sow clover and rye-grass with their barley crop. Every possessor of a few roods of ground, finds it profitable to sow some pounds of red clover *. Barley, grass, oats, flax, pease, and beans, are the common crops †. Of late, some wheat has been raised, but very few turnips. Probably, however, the farmers, in a few more years, will see it their interest to clean their grounds with a turnip fallow, where land is suitable for producing that valuable root; for it seems to be allowed, that the two great points of husbandry are, to keep ground clear of root-weeds, (which cannot be done so profitably as by a turnip fallow well dressed;) and to keep it always in good heart, (which is to be done by the plenty of dung, arising from the use of turnips ‡). The average rent, per acre, of the cultivated ground, is probably about 10 s. There are a few acres, in the near neighbourhood of the village, let at 2 l. 2 s. and upwards; and two pretty large

* When grass first began to be introduced as a crop, the old tenants were much offended; and their common language was, ‘That it was a *shame* to see *beast’s meat* growing where *men’s meat* should grow.’

† At an average of 7 years, preceeding 1792, oat meal and barley gave 14 s. 6 d. per boll, Linlithgow measure. A good ploughman has 8 l. and his maintenance; a servant maid from 50 s. to 3 l.; a day-labourer 1 s.; and, in public works, from 1 s. to 1 s. 6 d. per day.

‡ This parish owes much of its improvements to MR GRAHAM of BALGOWAN, who first set the example of inclosing his farms, and gave encouragement to judicious tenants, by granting them easy leases, and providing them with comfortable houses.

large farms at 1 l. 5 s. per acre. This was reckoned high, 3 years ago, when the leases were granted ; but, in all probability, will prove a profitable concern.

State of Property.—Two thirds of the parish belongs to LORD METHVEN and MR GRAHAM of BALGOWAN. The other third comprehends the estates of Tippermalloch and Bachilton, (belonging to Mr Duncan and Mr Oliphant,) with the small property of Wester Campsey, and several little feus which hold of Lord Methven.—“The valued rent is 6400 l. Scotch. The real rent amounts to something more than 3000 l. Sterling, per annum. Almost the whole of the parish was anciently comprehended in the Barony or Lordship of Methven. While that estate remained in the Crown, various portions of it were granted in feu to different persons ; and the feu duties of these lands are now paid to Lord Methven, as proprietor of the Lordship, although the lands are held of the Crown.

Ecclesiastical State.—The stipend, by decret, dated 1650, is 12 chalders of victual, two thirds meal, and one third bear ; with 3 l. 6 s. 8 d. for communion elements : Also, by decret obtained before the Sheriff of Perth, in 1766, 5 l. 2 s. 4 d. Sterling of vicarage ; carriages for 54 loads of turfs, and a 120 loads of peats, with other services for plowing the glebe, and carrying the dung. The glebe consists of somewhat more than 14 acres of good ground. The present church is a plain, neat, commodious edifice, and was built in 1781, in a stile superior to most country churches. LORD METHVEN is patron. The predecessor of the present incumbent, was Dr JAMES OSWALD, well known in the literary world, who resigned this benefice in 1783, and died in

in August 1793 *. A great proportion of the people are of the sect of Antiburgher Seceders, who have had a place of worship here about 40 years.

Poor.—Poor's rates have been established here since 1775. The heritors pay one half, according to their valued rent, in this parish; and the householders, (who assess one another,) pay the other half, according to their circumstances: To

* The Doctor's immediate predecessor, was Mr WILLIAM MONCRIEFF, settled in 1694. The ministers between the Restoration and the Revolution, were Mr RAMSAY and Mr OMEY; and, when Presbyterianism was re-established in Scotland, in 1638, Mr ROBERT MURRAY, of the family of Woodend, a small estate in this neighbourhood, was then minister, whose son, Mr JOHN MURRAY, succeeded him: They were both eminent in their times. JOHN Duke of ARGYLL's great-grand-father's father, in the maternal line, was brother to the above Mr Robert Murray: His name was WILLIAM MURRAY; he was minister of Dysart; and there was another brother, THOMAS, who was Preceptor to King CHARLES I. By the interest of the preceptor, his nephew, William, son to the minister of Dysart, was educated with the young Prince, who contracted so great an affection for his play fellow, that he afterwards created him Earl of Dysart. He married Elizabeth Bruce, of the family of Clackmannan, by whom he had two daughters, ELIZABETH, Countess of DYSART, and MARGARET, married to LORD MAYNARD, in England. The Countess married SIR LIONEL TOLLEMACHE of Helingham, in the county of Suffolk, by whom she had LIONEL, Earl of DYSART, and another son; also two daughters, Elizabeth and Catharine. Elizabeth married ARCHIBALD, first Duke of ARGYLL, by whom she had JOHN, the great Duke, the Earl of ISLAY, and ANNE, married to JAMES 2d Earl of BUTE, and mother to JOHN, the late Earl. Catharine, the other daughter, was married, 1st, to JAMES LORD DOWN, son and heir of ALEXANDER Earl of MURRAY, and next to JOHN Earl of SUTHERLAND. The Countess, after SIR LIONEL's death, married the great Duke of LAUDERDALE. Thus the little family of WOODEND, soon connected itself with some of the best families in both kingdoms.

To which is added, the annual interest of 267 l. bequeathed, at different times, to the poor of the parish. There are 9 districts, whose householders collect the proportions by rotation, and give them to the schoolmaster, (the treasurer and clerk of the fund,) who makes a weekly distribution, commonly after divine service. In 1775, the number of poor, on the stated list, was 36, who received weekly 1 l. 10 s. In 1793, the number is 21, and the weekly expenditure 1 l. 3 s. 2 d. The heritors and householders meet twice a year, and fix the assessment for the ensuing half year. The session have also power from the heritors to expend, on occasional poor, the whole of the weekly collections, &c. which amount to about 18 l. per annum: And the late Dr OSWALD bequeathed 100 l. the interest of which is to be annually given to such householders, as the session know to need a temporary relief, but who do not receive regular supplies from the assessed funds of the parish. This surely is a well judged charity.

Population.—The population of this parish has been almost stationary within these forty years, as appears from the following table :

Population Table of the Parish of Methven.

Population in 1755	-	-	-	1790
———, anno 1793	-	-	-	1786
Decrease	-	-	-	4
Average of births *,	{	for 6 years	}	47
——— of deaths,		preceding		29
——— of marriages,		1793.		17
				Average

* The above average of births, is not warranted as accurate,
as

Average of persons in each family	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Clergymen	-	-	2
Inhabitants in villages	400	Schoolmasters	-	-	2
——— in the coun-try	1386	Farmers above 50 l. per annum	-	-	6
Average of males baptised	24	Ditto from 50 to 30 l.	-	-	6
Ditto of females	23	—— from 30 to 15 l.	-	-	25
Number of families	397	—— under 15 l.	-	-	83
——— houses in the village	102	Shopkeepers	-	-	18
——— ditto inhabited by members of the Established Church	47	Smiths	-	-	8
——— ditto by Seceders	55	Masons	-	-	13
Widowers	19	Carpenters	-	-	15
Widows	69	Stocking weavers	-	-	4
Families belonging to the Established Church	171	Shoemakers	-	-	13
Families of Seceders	226	Tailors	-	-	9
Proprietors	5	Butchers	-	-	2
		Millers, about	-	-	12
		Persons employed in the paper mills	-	-	70
		Gardeners	-	-	6
		Retailers of malt liquor and spirits	-	-	12
		Flax-dressers	-	-	11
		Weavers	-	-	159

Manufactures, Mills, &c.—The principal manufacture, carried on here, is that of broad and narrow brown linens, broad and narrow harns, and a few white broad linens. By the books of the stamp-master here, it appears, that the number of yards brought to his office, in 1787, was 44,996; from which time, the quantity continued to increase so fast, that
last

as the children of the Antiburghers are baptised by their own minister; and no correct account of their number can be obtained.

last year, (1792,) 140,448 yards were stamped for sale, which, at an average of 9 d. per yard, is 5,266 l. 16 s. Of these, 11 twelfths were wove in the parish. But, at present, (August 1793,) the temporary stagnation of manufactures has deprived a great number of the hands of their usual employment. There is likewise a considerable quantity of household cloth wrought here.—There are 5 corn mills, in the parish, one lint mill, one barley mill, one waulk mill, and four threshing mills. There are likewise two paper mills, belonging to Messrs Morison and Lindsay, Perth, which manufacture, weekly, paper of different kinds, viz.

Of superfine post, foolscap, &c.	60 Reams.
Of fine and common printing papers	90 ditto.
Of cartridge, blue, and wrapping papers	50 ditto.
	<hr/>
	200

Markets, &c.—Two butchers carry on their business in the village, who annually kill about 2000 sheep, between 300 and 400 calves, about 150 fat cattle, and about 60 swine. Their trade has also increased rapidly. About 13 years ago, the butcher market here commenced about the latter end of August, and closed about the middle of January; during which time there were sold, at an average, per week, 40 carcases of sheep and goats; in all about 850. But, of late, the public taste has so much improved, that there is no more demand for goats flesh. It is only 13 years since beef was first exposed to sale in the village. It was a fat ox, value 7 l.; and the young man, who embarked in the concern, was thought very injudicious. The same man now frequently sells more than one in a week, during the plentiful season; and, for some of these, he has paid 17l. and 18l.

These little circumstances are mentioned to shew, how much the manner of living is improved here in so short a time. About 4 fifths of the meat, exposed to sale in the village, are sold in the neighbourhood, and what remains on hand is carried to Perth: And it may be added, that, in quality and variety, it is, for the most part, equal to what is to be had in the Perth market. The trade of killing cattle for the Perth market was long carried on, to a considerable extent, by the inhabitants of this village and neighbourhood; and the Methven butchers were, about 50 or 60 years ago, much richer, and in better credit, than those of Perth.

Roads.—As a great part of the parish consists of strong clay, our roads in winter have been wretchedly bad, the statute labour not being adequate to uphold them in decent repair. But lately, an act of Parliament has been obtained for a turnpike road between Perth and Crieff, the line of which passes through a great part of this parish; and is conducted through an uneven country, with a skill which does much honour to the abilities of Mr Abercrombie, the engineer, who directed it. It will be finished in the course of this season, (autumn 1793,) and will contribute much to the improvement and accommodation of this country. The cross roads are also assuming a much better appearance, now that the statute labour is applied entirely to them.

Antiquities.—The first mention found of METHVEN, in history, is about the year 970, when COLENUS, reputed the 79th King of Scotland, is said to have been killed in its neighbourhood, by ROHARD, Thane of Methven, whose daughter he had deflowered. Before 1323, the lands of Methven belonged to the MOWBRAY's *, whose ancestor, ROGER MOWBRAY,

a

* A branch of this family afterwards established itself in Scotland,

a Norman, came to England with WILLIAM the Conqueror.
—The first religious establishment here was a Provostry,
or

Scotland, and became very flourishing. To Sir ROGER MOWBRAY belonged the baronies of Kelly, Eckford, Dalmeny, and Methven, lying in the shires of Forfar, Roxburgh, Linlithgow, and Perth: But, for adhering to the Baliol and English interest, his lands were confiscated by ROBERT I. who bestowed Eckford, Kelly, and Methven, on his son in law, WALTER, the 8th hereditary Lord High Steward of Scotland, whose son, ROBERT, was afterwards King, and the 2d of the name, in right of his mother MARJORY BRUCE, daughter of ROBERT I. The Lordship of Methven was granted by him to WALTER STEWART, Earl of ATHOLE, his 2d son, by Euphame Ross, his 2d wife; and, after his forfeiture, remained in the Crown a considerable time. It became part of the dowery lands usually appropriated for the maintenance of the Queen Dowager of Scotland, together with the Lordship and Castle of Stirling, and the lands of Balquhider, &c. all of which were settled on MARGARET, Queen Dowager of James IV. who, in the year 1524, having divorced her 2d husband, Archibald Earl of Angus, married Henry Stewart, 2d son of Andrew Lord Evandale, afterwards Ochiltree, a descendant of Robert Duke of Albany, son of King Robert II. Margaret was the eldest daughter of Henry VII. of England, in whose right JAMES VI. of Scotland, her great grandson, succeeded to that Crown, on the death of Queen ELIZABETH. She procured for her third husband a peerage from her son JAMES V. under the title of LORD METHVEN, anno 1528; and, on this occasion, the barony of Methven was dissolved from the Crown, and erected into a Lordship, in favour of Henry Stewart and his heirs male, on the Queen's resigning her jointure of the Lordship of Stirling. By Lord Methven she had a daughter, who died in infancy, before herself. The Queen died at the Castle of Methven, in 1540; and was buried at Perth, beside the body of King James I. Lord METHVEN afterwards married Janet Stewart, daughter of the Earl of Atholl, by whom he had a son, Henry II. Lord Methven, who married Jean, daughter of Patrick Lord RUTHVEN, and was killed at Broughton, by a cannon ball from the Castle of Edinburgh, in 1572, leaving a son, Henry III. Lord Methven, who died without issue. This 3d Lord Methven is mentioned on the authority of *Stewart's Genealogical Account of the House of Stewart*. In the year 1584, the Lordship of Methven and Balquhider was conferred on Lodowick Duke

or Collegiate Church, founded, anno 1433, by WALTER STEWART Earl of ATHOLL, (mentioned below,) who amply endowed it with lands and tythes *, for the salvation of his soul, according to the superstition of those times ; and who was a principal actor † in the horrid murder of King JAMES I. his own nephew.—An aisle, which was connected with this last church, appears, from a stone built in the wall, to have been erected by some of the Royal Family ‡. On this stone is sculptured the Royal Lion of Scotland, with the Crown above ; and there are some defaced illegible Saxon characters below. This aisle may have been built by Margaret the Queen Dowager, when she resided at the Castle of Methven. It is now the burying place of the family of Methven.

It

Duke of LENNOX, in whose illustrious family it continued till it was purchased, in 1664, by PATRICK SMITH of BRACO, great grandfather of the present LORD METHVEN, from Charles, the last Duke ; who dying without issue, anno 1672, his honours, (of which Lord Methven was one,) with his estate and hereditary offices, fell to CHARLES II. as his nearest male heir ; the King's great grandfather's father, and the Duke's being brothers.

* The rent of the provostry of Methven, soon after the Reformation, (as extracted by Keith from the collector's books,) was in Scotch money, &c. 117l. 6s. 8d. 20 chalders of meal, and 10 chalders of meal. By other accounts, the victual appears to have been 10 chalders more. It seems to have been, by much, the richest Collegiate Church in Scotland. By the erection, there were, besides the provost, 5 chaplains of the choir of Methven.

† CRAWFURD's *Peerage*.

‡ Soon after his Coronation, anno 1306, King ROBERT BRUCE was defeated by the English troops, under the Earl of Pembroke, near the Castle of Methven, and found himself deserted by most of his army : After which, he suffered the greatest

It is only necessary to mention farther, under this article, that BESSY BELL and MARY GRAY, celebrated in one of our most popular songs, are said to have been buried in this parish, about half a mile west of the present house of Lednock *.

Character of the People.—The people are sober and industrious, charitable to the poor, and compassionate to objects in distress. They are regular in their attendance on the ordinances

of difficulties and distresses. The account of the battle is thus given by a modern historian.—‘ BRUCE, having had no time to discipline his men, had formed a camp at Methven, near Perth, which was the head quarter of the English General; and there lay, upon the defensive, well knowing the disadvantage he was under from his men not being disciplined. He had already attempted to surprize Perth; but failing in his design, he had retired to Methven, from whence he sent a challenge to the Earl to fight him. According to BARBOUR, and the best historians, the challenge was accepted; but, on the night before the day appointed, which was the 20th of July, while the Scots thought themselves secure, and were unprovided for battle, they were attacked, and routed by their enemies, in the park of Methven.’

Guthrie's Hist. of Scotland, Vol. II. page 177.

* The common tradition is, that Bessy Bell was daughter of the Laird of Kinvaid, and Mary Gray of the Laird of Lednock. Being near neighbours, a great intimacy subsisted between the young ladies. When they were together at Lednock, the plague broke out, anno 1645; to avoid which, they retired to a romantic spot, called BURN BREAS, on the estate of Lednock, where they lived for some time; but, afterwards, caught the infection from a young gentleman, an admirer of both, who came to visit them in their solitude: And here they died; and were buried at some distance from their bower, near a beautiful bank of the Almond.

Major BERRY, the late proprietor of Lednock, inclosed, with pious care, the spot of ground, and consecrated it to the memory of these famed and amiable friends.

ordinances of religion, without the ostentation of those, who
'*thank God that they are not as other men.*' And it is much
to the honour of both the religious parties in this parish,
that, in all the intercourses of common life, they forget that
they worship under separate roofs. The incumbent scarcely
knows an instance of the rancour of bigotry, or the petu-
lance of overweening conceit, among the members of the
two congregations.

NUM-

N U M B E R XL.

PARISH OF SPYNIE, OR NEW SPYNIE.

(County and Synod of Moray.—Presbytery of Elgin.)

By the Reverend Mr ABRAHAM GORDON, Minister.

Name, Lake, Fish, &c.

THE LOCH of SPYNIE, which has given this parish its name, is the first object in a statistical account which claims attention. This lake is more than 3 miles in length, and about 1 in breadth. It bounds the parish along its N. side, and appears to have been a Frith of the Sea, though it is now shut up by a long extent of valuable land at each end, both on the E. and W. Accordingly part of the country, between the lake and the sea, still retains the name of ROSS ISLE; and there is a place near its western end called KINTRAE, (in Gaelic, *Cean Traidhe*,) which signifies, *the Head of the Tide*. Besides which, beds of shells, principally oysters, which are not now found on the coast, are frequently discovered on the banks of the lake, several feet below the surface of the earth *. This lake abounds with swans; and

* It appears, from the *Chartulary of Moray*, that, in the 13th century, small boats were sent from the village of Spynie to fish in the sea; in testimony of which, a heap of shells, collected by the fishers, was lately discovered, under a thin covering of earth, on the ground where the village stood. It also appears, from

and FORDON, in his History, remarks it as a curiosity. There are also perch and trout in this lake.

Palace.—The BISHOP'S PALACE is the next object to which the attention is most naturally called. It is situated in the eastern extremity of the parish, on the bank of the lake ;

from the chartulary, that, in 1451, the bishop got this village erected into a burgh of barony, and the next year into a burgh of regality ; but there is now no other vestige of it than a market cross. But although it is evident, that, at a period comparatively not remote, the sea flowed into the space which the lake now occupies, and covered, besides, a large extent of land at each end of it ; yet it is also obvious, that, at a still more recent period, the bounds of this lake were more limited than at present. For, a few years ago, when the canal, which had long been neglected, was cleaned out and enlarged, a causeway was discovered, stretching from this parish quite across the lake, in which there were several passages for the water, each about 3 feet wide, and covered by a thick flag-stone ; and, upon its appearance, a tradition was recollected, that this causeway was called *the Bishop's Steps*, and had been formed by his influence, for the accommodation of the ministers of St. Andrew's, who officiated also in the church of *Ogueston*, (since united to *Drainy*,) both having been menial churches before the establishment of Presbytery. Bishop Falconer told the author this ; and that the Bishop's priest, who officiated, had prayers in the forenoon in the one, and in the afternoon in the other, and thereafter his dinner in the Castle every Sunday. This causeway was soon converted, by Mr BRANDER of PITGAVENY, into a substantial road, by which a more direct communication was opened between Elgin and the shore. And as he is now farther improving the canal, so as to gain nearly two feet of additional fall, it is expected, when this work is completed, that the lake will be again reduced to its ancient narrow limits. It may be farther observed, that it has been conjectured, that the vast quantity of land washed up by the sea, on the coast between Nairn and Findhord, and drifted eastward by the wind over the estate of Cubin, destroyed the oysters on the coast, and shut up the lake on the west, which, preventing any current, permitted the alluvion of the river Spey to close it in at the east, as the appearance of the ground seems still to shew.

lake; and near to it, where the water is deepest, a small artificial island emerged, upon clearing out the canal, of an oval form, about 60 by 16 paces, appearing to be composed of stones from the quarry, bound together by crooked branches of oak, and as if the earth, with which it was completed, had been wholly washed off during its submersion. The palace itself was a magnificent and spacious building, round a square court, having the gate on the east side, and fortified by towers at the corners, and a dry ditch on the west and south, containing lofty halls, deep vaults, a chapel, stables, and other offices *. The remains of paintings, on a part of

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* Spynie Palace has been so often described by antiquarians, that it would be useless to recapitulate the subject at large. It may, however, be observed, that although there is no certainty when the palace was first founded, yet the bishopric was erected by MALCOLM CANMORE, anno 1057; and we are authorised to say, that GREGORY was appointed bishop here, in the year 1107, by the Cartulary of Drumferling, when King WILLIAM confirmed to that monastery the cell of Urquhart, in this neighbourhood, and renewed the privileges and gifts to this abbacy, made by MALCOLM, and the worthy ST. MARGARET his wife. King JAMES II. anno 1450, by his charter in the public records, refers also to the gifts made by that King's successors, DUNCAN, EDGAR, ETHELRED his brother, ALEXANDER, and SYBILLA his Queen, DAVID, MALCOLM, WILLIAM, and ROBERT BRUCE, successively. Hence we may infer, that the same King Malcolm Canmore crested this diocese, at this period, and the bishops occupied the church as a cathedral; and made their residence here, as well as at Birnie and King-edward, where they lived in Castles, which are still remaining in ruins. This church continued to be the domicil of the bishop till the Revolution: It stood where the cathedral was established, till the year 1224; when King ALEXANDER II's mandate authorised its translation to Elgin. It is dated the 10th year of his reign, and the deed is granted, *Apud Muthyllbr. quinto die Julii*. The cathedral of Elgin was founded by ANDREW MURRAY, son of William Murray of Duffus. The Murrays of Duffus had the lands of Kintrae and Leggat, in this parish, from King DAVID I. along with the great estate of Duffus and Ogston. Of this great family are descended the Sutherlands, the Douglasses, and the Murrays, in the south.

The

the walls, were so distinct, a few years ago, as to shew, that a landscape with trees, and several representations of scriptural history,

The boundaries of estates were early attended to. There was a distinct march, dividing Spynie and Findrassie from Kintrae and Quarrywood, by agreement, in 1226, between HUGH de Moravia, and his brother the bishop, and establishing the road to Sherriffmiln, Auchter-Spyne, and Elgin, the march of property, declaring the muirs to the east neutral ground. The parish consisted of church lands and King's lands. Those of the church were *Spynie*, *Myreside*, *Bishopmiln*, *Murrayston*, *Burrowbrigs*, *Auchter-Spyne*, and *Auldrochty*. Those of the Crown were *Leggat*, *Kintrae*, and *Quarrywood*, and *Barony of Westfield*.

The earliest feu of the bishop is that of a stance for a miln upon Auchter Spynie, (Sherriffmiln,) in a donation of the said ANDREW, bishop of Murray, to WALTER of Duffus, his brother, anno 1237. As on this stance alone, a miln is built, a few rigs along with it, though 6 miles distant from the barony, continued the miln of that estate 500 years, and lately were purchased, from Mr Arthur Duff, by the proprietor of Duffus, whose grandfather sold them to Lord BRACO, in 1740. The lands themselves were feued before the year 1309, in favour of ADAM STEVEN, burghers of Elgin; and the said stance of a miln is there reserved. They were in the person of THOMAS URQUHART of Burdysyards, in 1390. The lands of Auldrochty belonged to Robert Sibbald, in 1398. Findrassie was feued by the bishop to JOHN, *Dominus de Teitres*, and MARGARET his wife, anno 1378.

The remaining lands of the church continued with the bishop till the eve of the Reformation, when Bishop Hepburn made great havock. What of them were saved from his prodigal hands, with the feu duties and patronages, were granted by James VI. in favour of ALEXANDER LINDSAY, who was created LORD SPYNIE, and the bishopric erected into a temporal Lordship to him and his heirs and assignees, and to JEAN LYON, Countess of Angus, his wife.

This Alexander Lindsay, a brother of the Earl of Crawford, was a great favourite of this Prince, who wrote him from Denmark, advising him to the marriage of Jean Lyon, in these words: ‘ Dear Sandy, marry her—your young *tout* will ‘ blast her old *born*.’—About the year 1605, LORD SPYNIE disposed the bishopric to the Dunbars of Westfield, who afterwards sold it to the family of Grange.

BURROW-

history, had been the design *. Adjoining to it also were gardens, though of no great extent, now distinguishable only by

BURROWBRIGS and MYRESIDE were feued out by Alexander Douglas bishop of Murray, in 1609, to his son, Alexander, and Mary Innes his wife, who was proprietor also of Spynie and Murrayston, and died provost of Banff. about 1669

In this parish lived the Dunbars of Westfield, a family which flourished 400 years in Murray, and the different branches of which possessed a great part of the country. A century ago, there were 26 heritors in the shire, of whom only two now remain. Of the family of Westfield, and not of Mochrum, or Aimach, (as several authors narrate,) was GAVIN bishop of Aberdeen, son of ALEXANDER DUNBAR of Westfield, and Elizabeth Sutherland, daughter of William Sutherland of Duffus, and laird of Quarrywood and Leggat, in this parish. This Alexander should have been Earl of Murray in 1446, being the only son of James, Earl of Murray, and laird of Frendraught. The said Bishop was Lord Register in 1503; Bishop of Aberdeen in 1518, and built the bridge of Dee, which Bishop Elphinston began, and mortified the land of Ardlair in Garioch, in 1529, to its support, under the management of the Provost, (Menzies,) and Council of Aberdeen. He endued an hospital for 12 poor men at Old Aberdeen, and mortified 50 merks Sterling to two chaplains, payable out of the lands of Quarrywood and Leggat, in which he was interested; and the deed was confirmed by King JAMES V. proceeding on the said William Sutherland's contract to the Bishop, dated *Apud Quarrywood, die quinto mensis Augusti, 1529*, in which this remarkable condition is inserted: '*Proviso insuper, quod si contingat monetari regni Scotiae, seu ejusvis alterius regni, in Scotia cursum habentem, ad altius praetium levare quam ut nunc in solutione capiunt, unde reverendus ipse pater, aut heredes, seu assignati, seu quicunque pauperioris aut deterioris conditionis officientes, in eo casu obligo et astringo praedictas terras meas, de Quarrywood, et Leggat, possessionibus quibuscunque dicti annui redditus, ad solvendum pro qualibet Marca et viginti duabus denariis, unum unciam puri argenti quod creat ad minus ALEWYNE PENNY FYNE, vel ejus verum valorem, in usuale Moneta Regni Scotiae, pro quibus licebit ipsis possessoribus dicti annui redditus, ipsas terras, pro se aut suos officiales, aut factores, distringere et namare.*'—Instead theretore of 2l. 15s. 6½d. Sterling, the reddendo ought to be about 9l. 12s. Sterling.

* It is hardly possible to survey these ruins of ecclesiastical magnificence,

by the ruined walls, in which was the best fruit, said to be reared from plants of foreign countries. The whole precincts, which do not exceed 10 acres, are now the property of the Crown, and are let by the Court of Exchequer to the Earl of Fife, the adjoining heritor, at the rent of 12 l. Sterling.

Situation. Extent, Surface, Wood, Minerals, &c.—A great part of this parish lies pleasantly situated along the banks of the Lossie, within view of Elgin, including *Auchter-Spynie*, called also *Upper Haugh*, Murrayston, called, in 1378, *Middle Haugh*, (then feued by the Bishop to John Dallas, son of

magnificence, without reflecting upon the almost unlimited influence which the clergy, for a long period, possessed over the minds of men. In this enlightened age, we can hardly think, without indignation, of that spiritual bondage in which our ancestors were held; but, perhaps, a philosopher, in viewing the state of society in this country, during the times of Episcopacy, when the police was extremely imperfect, and the government too weak to enforce obedience to the laws, would consider the great ascendancy of Ecclesiastics to have been a happy circumstance for the people, seeing it was often exerted to prevent and to redress injuries from powerful laymen; and thus served to mitigate those evils, which could only be cured by the wisdom and energy of a better government.

Although no person, in the catalogue of the MORAY BISHOPS, made any conspicuous figure as a statesman, yet, both in the Roman Catholic and Protestant Churches, they appear to have been men of very respectable characters, and to have possessed the regard and confidence of their respective contemporaries, having been often chosen as the arbitrators of their disputes. Several estates are still bounded according to the decrees arbitral of COLIN FALCONER, the last bishop who inhabited this palace, who died, anno 1686, much esteemed. The late PHESDO, and WILLIAM CUMING of Craigmiln, were at his burial, and heard often to say, that the whole country, *gentle and simple*, attended his funeral. Neither of his two successors, (ALEXANDER ROSE and WILLIAM HAY,) had any personal residence in their official character.

of William Dallas of Strathardel,) and *Wester Haugh*, now called *Burrowbrigs*. From the eastern precincts of the palace, a ridge of moor stretches the whole length of the parish, nearly 4 miles, rising gradually towards the west into a pretty high hill, and clothed almost throughout its whole extent with thriving plantations of fir, interspersed with other forest trees. The medium breadth of the parish is nearly two miles. On the south side of the highest part of this ridge, about a mile westward from Elgin, on the post road to Forres, there is a large extent of very flourishing natural oak wood, the property of the Earl of Fife, who has inclosed it with a substantial stone wall, and keeps it properly thinned and clear of underwood, so that, when fully grown, its value must be very considerable. Under a thin stratum of moorish soil, the whole of this ridge seems to be a mass of excellent hard free stone; of which there is a quarry, near the summit of the hill, that supplies a large extent of country with mill-stones, and the town of Elgin and the neighbourhood with stones for building. When the intended BRIDGE OVER THE SPEY at Fochabers comes to be erected, it will, no doubt, occur to those concerned, that they can no where be supplied with better stones, or at a cheaper rate, than from the Earl of FIFE's quarry in this parish.

Soil, Climate, River, &c.—Upon each side of this ridge lies the whole of the cultivated land, in which almost every variety of soil is to be met with, from the heaviest clay to the lightest sand. The air is healthy, and, on the south side of the hill, peculiarly soft and warm, during a great proportion of the year: On the north side, the climate is not so pleasant, the soil being wet and cold, and the lake often emitting a very thick and disagreeable fog. These disadvantages do not, however, seem to have any bad effects upon

upon the health of the inhabitants, no disease being more prevalent here than in any other part of the country.—This parish is bounded on the S. throughout the greatest part of its length, by the river *Loffie*, excepting that opposite to the town of Elgin there is a fine field of about 40 acres, called *Brrough bridge*, which belongs to this parish, though on the south side of the river : The reason of this is, that the *Loffie* formerly run close by the town, as appears from the title deeds of the properties in the adjoining quarter of the burgh, which still bound them by the river, although this valuable field, the property of the Earl of FINDLATER, has been, from time immemorial, interjected between them. The reverse of this has happened a little lower down, in a small semicircular field, called *Dean's Crook*, which has been evidently cut off from the Cathedral lands of Elgin, by the river occupying the diameter instead of the periphery, which still remains a reedy pond.

Produce.—The productions of the parish are in no respect different from those of the country around. Grain, including pease and beans, is the article on which the tenants chiefly depend for the payment of their rents, and the purchase of the necessaries of life. On the larger farms, which are rented by gentlemen, turnips and sown grass have their places in the rotation of crops ; but, on the smaller, none of the modern improvements in agriculture have yet been adopted *. Every farmer, however, raises hay, the soil being
very

* Thirty years ago, neither turnips nor potatoes were known in this parish, except a few in gardens. The principal farmers have now both in abundance in the open fields, and partake of the profits of these useful productions. Grass seeds, such as rye-grass and clover, were equally unknown 40 years ago. A few families of rank, in the neighbourhood, began to raise grass ;
and

very productive, and the small possessor finds it his advantage, as one acre will produce 300 stones, when properly cultivated, which answers for the food of cattle in summer, and prevents their sending them to the Highland Glens, 40 miles distance, which was their former practice, and still partly prevails. In this parish and the neighbourhood, within 4 miles of each other, there are 9 *pidgeon houses* well stored; a sign of the good grain of the parish, which, upon an average, weighs from 18 to 20 stones, per boll, of barley; 15 stone, per boll, of oats; and 16 stone, per boll, of wheat. The wheat is meal measure. That of the other grain exceeds the Linlithgow boll about a peck.

Cultivation, Farm Rents, &c.—The farm of Sherriffmilk, rented by JAMES WALKER, Esq; M. D. claims particular notice in an account of this kind. This gentleman, in the early part of his life, entered, with all the ardour of enthusiasm, into the horse-hoeing husbandry, on the plan of JETHRO TULL; in which he has ever since persevered with unfailing steadiness, raising crops of wheat, barley, and beans, in drills without a particle of dung, always following the intervals, (about 3 feet,) for each succeeding crop; and thus compleatly demonstrating the effect of cultivation without the use of *manure*. Although every operation has been performed with the nicest accuracy, and in its proper season, and though the soil of Sherriffmilk seems to be well calculated for this kind of husbandry, being light and sandy, yet the result has not been such as to encourage imitation. The corn is indeed superior in quality to any in the country; but the quantity by the acre *much less* than is raised in the broad-

and a gardener in Elgin, who had been bred in London, was employed to cut the grass, and oversee the hay, for the scythe was then little known, and could not be used.

broad-cast way, on the same kind of soil, well plowed and manured. The average rent, per acre, is about 15 s. the clay land letting at 1 l. the sandy soils at about 10 s. and those of the intermediate qualities from 14 s. to 17 s. the acre *. Although the clay land in general produces large crops, yet, on account of the additional expence which attends the management of it, it is not by many reckoned the most profitable; as the labour of this soil is often suspended for a great part of the winter, and in the beginning of spring, while all the necessary operations of that season are diligently prosecuted on the drier lands.

Improvements.

* In this parish, and generally in the whole parishes of the country, the land-lords drew a vicual rent; and this practice continued till Lord Fife introduced a conversion at 12 and 12 s. 6 d, per boll. If the ancient rents were exacted, *ipsis corporibus*, it would be found, that, on the average value of grain, the present rents would not much exceed the rents established 170 or 200 years ago. For, by the valuation of teinds, anno 1629, Spynie, on the one end of the parish, is then rented at 108 bolls, and now pays the heritor, exclusive of the precinct or bishops part, 72 l. Sterling. The farm of Sherriffmīln, then rented at 50 bolls, now pays 48 l. In the vicinity of the town of Elgin, and in the other part of the parish, Kintrae was given up, anno 1629, at the yearly rent of 130 bolls of vicual, and recently set by Lord Fife at 118 l. 14 s. of money, and 20 bolls of wheat. This, reckoned with the first quality of soil in the country, is about 20 s. per acre; which, estimating the value of a boll at 16 s. proves, that the present *reddendo* scarcely exceeds the ancient exaction; and likewise shows, whether the farmer has improved the method of cultivation, for he has no other source, but the prices of cattle, which, in the memory of man, have been tripled in value. If the case were otherwise, the tenant still could not pay, nor the land-lord receive, the stipulated rents exigible 170 years ago.—It also proves that vicual, then valued at 5 l. Scotch the boll, has not been doubled, when every other article of life has been doubled, tripled, and quadrupled. Servants wages, in this parish, 40 years ago, were, for a ploughman, 10 l. Scotch half yearly, now 30 l.; and exceeding it in many parts of the country.

Improvements.—The industry of the farmer will often increase the value of a farm, where the sluggard will starve. A remarkable instance of this occurs in the improvement of the farm of Murrayston, which was possessed by Mr James Duncan, and held by 4 tenants, at the low rent of 70 bolls, in the year 1764, when they all became bankrupts. The landholder then adapted his conversion for 19 years to Mr Donaldson, who exerted much industry, and improved the farm greatly. On his resignation, Mr Duncan entered at an advanced rent of 10 l. He lives as comfortably as Mr Donaldson did; and now, besides the profits of his crop, by attention to the dairy alone, draws, for milk and butter, 150 l. yearly.—It may be observed, that the farm of Burrowbrigs was, 170 years ago, only rented at 18 bolls of victual*; but now it rents at 100 l. Sterling, owing to its vicinity to the burrow lands of Elgin. As a farther evidence of what the grounds, by proper cultivation, may produce, Mr Russell, the proprietor of Westfield, has let his estate in lots of from 20 to 40 acres, and built houses for the inhabitants, whereby he gets a rent of from 30 s. to 40 s. per acre. So

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that

* By the Sherriff Court records it appears, that the price of a boll of victual was 8 l. anno 1635, 6 l. 13 s. 4 d. in 1636, 7 l. in 1642, 6 l. in 1644, 12 l. in 1647, and 9 l. in 1649; and bear given in charity 10 l. per boll, that is, a peck to the boll; and 8 l. for the meal. Country cloth was 10 d. per ell; half a merk for a pair of hose; a merk for a pair of shoes; and 8 l. for the stone of wool, in 1649. A white horned wedder was sold for 2 l. Scots, and a young gimmer for the same; a cart of peats for 4 s.; 8 tups for a boll of household meal; a good horned cow for 18 l. Scotch; a grey horse to the Laird of Innes 20 dollars; salt 5 l. per boll; and a pound of onion seed for 4 l. A man servant's fee was 4 l. 3 s. 4 d. for the half year, in the year 1649; and in a process at the instance of Robert Guthrie in Speysla against Bessie Douglas, good wife of Leuchers, she is decerned in 20 merks for ilk boll of victual oats, that is, 5 firlots, (scarcely 6 firlots of Linlithgow measure,) crop 1649.

that this estate, bought some years ago at 6000 l. draws now more than 400 l. annually.

Cattle.—There are 201 horses and 560 black cattle in the parish, besides 14 large oxen, which go in pairs either in the plough or wain. Before the moor was planted, almost every tenant had a small flock of sheep; but now there are not above 200 sheep in the parish: And these are chiefly of a small white-faced breed, which has been in this country from time immemorial. There is little attention paid to the breeding or improvement of black cattle, except by a few of the gentlemen, who alone turn this branch of husbandry to any account.

Rent and Proprietors.—The valued rent is 3055 l. 3 s. 8 d. Scotch *, which is divided among 5 heritors, exclusive of the precinct of Spynie, belonging, as was said, to the Crown. Besides the farm of Spynie, the Earl of FIFE holds all the lands in the north and west, except the estate of Westfield, the property of FRANCIS RUSSEL, Esq; of Blackhall, Advocate. The Earl of FINDLATER holds the lands of Burroughbridge, lying between the Loffie and the town of Elgin; as well as the lands of Greenhall, Myreside, and Bishopmiln, in the east, between Spynie and Elgin; JAMES MILN, Esq; having only the milns of Bishopmiln, with a small contiguous property. And the LESSLIES of Findrassie have long possessed that estate, on the side of the lake, between the properties of the two Earls.

Population.

* By the old valuation roll of this county, in the year 1667, the real rent is said to have been 198,217 l. 13 s. Scotch, (16,518 l. 2s. 9d. Sterling,) and the valued rent 66,072 l. 11s. 11d. Scotch.

Population.—The population seems to have decreased in the course of the last 30 years. Although there are no very large farms in the parish (there being only one that exceeds 100 acres), yet there are several, in which, within that period, one tenant has succeeded to 405. It is probable, that the population may be still a little farther diminished, as nearly one half of the parish consists of farms from 20 to 40 acres, which the proprietors may through time see proper to lay out in larger tenements.

The return to Dr Webster, in 1755, was 865 souls.

The number of souls at present is,

Males	-	-	-	289	
Females	-	-	-	313	
				<hr/>	602
					<hr/>
			Decrease		263

Of these there are, of the Episcopal persuasion,

5 families, consisting of about 30 persons.

The annual average of births *, for 7 years, is 12

Ditto of marriages * - - - - 6

Manufactures.—The only manufactory of this parish is that erected by Mr John Ritchie, merchant in Elgin. In the eastmost part of this parish, on the river of Lossie, within a half mile of the town of Elgin, he has built on a feu belonging to him, a mill for the manufactory of tobacco, a waulk-mill, a flax mill, and bleaching machinery, which has brought to great perfection the bleaching of linens and thread; and he is, with great assiduity, giving every hope of bringing these useful and laudable inventions to perfection.

Fuel.

* These averages are taken from the parish register, from 1784 to 1790, inclusive, a period in which it appears to have been very exactly kept.

Fuel.—Coals may now be had at so moderate a price, and in a few years there will also be such abundance of wood, that it is hardly necessary to notice the present scarcity of fuel for domestic accommodation.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church and manse were most pleasantly situated at the eastern extremity, in the vicinity of the Castle, until the year 1736, when they were removed to *Quarrywood*, a more central, though more bleak situation, nearly under the highest part of the north side of the hill. Both are at present in pretty good repair; and the glebe and garden, consisting of about 6 acres, are both substantially inclosed with stone walls. The stipend, including 60 merks for communion elements, is 30 l. Sterling, and 64 bolls of bear.

Antiquities.—The remains of a Danish camp* are still very conspicuous on the hill of *Quarrywood*. It would appear that those Danes, who inhabited the burgh (*burges*) in this neighbourhood, had erected it as an asylum for their families. It commands a view of the whole county, and a pleasant prospect into the counties of Caithness, Sutherland, Ross, Inverness, Nairn, Banff, and Aberdeen. It is worthy of Lord Hyfe's notice, and becoming his taste, in beautifying the county, to renew this monument, and perpetuate its antiquity.

Advantages.

* Both FORDON and BUCHANAN give account of the Danes landing in Murray, about the year 1008, when Malcolm II. marched against them, fought, and was defeated at Forres. In the career of their success, they sent for their families, who enjoyed the land till they were repeatedly defeated at Gomerie in Banff-shire, and Cruden in Buchan, where the Danish camps are still to be seen.

Advantages.—One great advantage, which this parish in a peculiar manner enjoys, is the abundance of stone so well adapted both for building and inclosing; of which, however, the inhabitants have not yet availed themselves in any great degree. Besides this, no part of the parish is inconveniently distant from either of the harbours of Lossiemouth or Findhorn, or the markets of Elgin, to which last there is at all times an uninterrupted access by a handsome stone bridge, where the post-road to Forres crosses the Lossie, about the middle of the south side of the parish.

Language.—The language of the parish is the Scotch dialect. Some of the names of places are evidently Gaelic, such as *Kintrae*, *Inshagarty**, (*Innis-ant-shagairt*), the *Leggat*, (*an lag-fhad*), &c. And it is highly probable that many more of them are of Gaelic origin, though they are now corrupted or disguised so much, by having been so long in the mouths of Lowlanders, that it is hardly possible for a Highlander to recognize them for his native tongue.

Character, &c.—The people are industrious and frugal, possessing also other virtues, not so much the necessary consequence of their situation; being in general honest, benevolent and friendly, and entertaining a high respect for the ordinances of religion. The dress of the poorer tenants and day-labourers is of the cheapest kind, chiefly of home manufacture; that of the more substantial farmers, and their servants, is purchased from the shops of Elgin.

* The Priest's Island.





